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Wednesday, April 13, 2011

INSIDE TODAY

UP FRONT

Piece of the Empire State Building could be yours



The Empire State Building in New York, April 12, 2011. The Malkin family, which controls the 102-story Art Deco tower at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street, is planning to create a publicly traded real estate company featuring the building.

(The New York Times)

Read Next Page

Mafia boss breaks code in telling all



By W. K. RASHBAUM

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NEW YORK – It was a straightforward question, but not one usually answered by the likes of Joseph C. Massino.

Continued on Page A2

Chernobyl Concentration



At the Indian Point nuclear plants in Buchanan, New York, spent fuel in pools is almost entirely below ground, a federal official says.
(Keith Meyers/The New York Times)

In Japan

Crisis severity equates to Chernobyl

By RYAN NAKASHIMA

Associated Press

TOKYO – Japan ranked its nuclear crisis at the highest possible severity on an international scale the same level as the 1986 Chernobyl disaster even as it insisted Tuesday that radiation leaks are declining at its tsunami-crippled nuclear plant.

The higher rating is an open acknowledgement of what was widely understood already: The nuclear accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant is the second-worst in history. It does not signal a worsening of the plant's status in recent days or any new health dangers.

Still, people living nearby

who have endured a month of spewing radiation and frequent earthquakes said the change in status added to their unease

despite government efforts to play down any notion that the crisis poses immediate health risks. □



People in radiation protect suits walk in J-Village in Naraha, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan. J-Village was a sports complex which has been converted to a base for workers at the tsunami-damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

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Piece of the Empire State Building could be yours

By CHARLES V. BAGLI

© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK — People who have always wondered what it might be like to dabble in a little New York real estate may soon be able to dabble in a lot of it — by buying a piece of its most famous skyscraper, the Empire State Building. The Malkin family, which controls the 102-story Art Deco tower at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street, is planning to create a publicly traded real estate company featuring the building, according to three executives who had been briefed on the plans but spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

The skyscraper draws tens of thousands of tourists from across the globe every year to its 86th-floor observatory, 1,050 feet above the city streets. If the Malkin plan is successful, New Yorkers, and anyone else for that matter, will be able to buy stock in the company that owns the Empire State Building, much as Wisconsin residents bought stock in the Green Bay Packers.

The new company, the executives said, may include a number of other office buildings controlled by Anthony E. Malkin and his father, Peter L. Malkin, including 1 Grand Central, a 55-story, 1.3 million-square-foot building across 42nd Street from Grand Central Terminal, and



A nighttime view of the Empire State Building in New York. The Malkin family, which controls the 102-story Art Deco tower at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street, is planning to create a publicly traded real estate company featuring the building.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

a 26-story building at 250 W. 57th St., as well as six buildings in Westchester County and lower Connecticut.

Anthony Malkin declined to comment, but he, his father and their partners are hoping to cash in on the Empire State Building's international cachet and a commercial real estate market in New York that is once again attracting buyers from around the world.

"Investors the world over are clamoring to invest in Manhattan office properties, both

MAFIA

Continued from Front Page

At least not with such candor.

The longtime boss of the Bonanno crime family was asked by a prosecutor, "What powers did you have?" Massino, seated at the witness stand, offered a quick, matter-of-fact reply. "Murders, responsibility for the family, made captains, break captains," he said.

And so it was that Massino, 68, the only official boss of a New York crime family to cooperate with federal authorities, appeared in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn on Tuesday and became the first to testify against a former confederate. For nearly five hours, Massino cataloged his misdeeds, recounting murders and other acts of varying criminal scope.

Massino would tell the jury that the man on trial, Vincent Basciano, the family's former acting boss, had spoken to him about ordering the killing of Randolph Pizzolo, a Bonanno associate. Basciano is on trial for ordering Pizzolo's murder.

But for much of the day, Massino established his credentials and gave the jury his view from the top, his philosophy of mob management and his personal history — all larded with a steady stream of culinary metaphors and references.

"If you need somebody to kill somebody, you need workers — it takes all kinds of meat to make a good sauce," said the onetime restaurateur, catering consultant and coffee truck owner, referring to what he said were both Basciano's skill as a killer and as an earner for the crime family.

He recounted turning to crime as a 12-year-

old, stealing some homing pigeons. By the time he was 14, he had run away from home; he said he hitchhiked to Florida, getting arrested for vagrancy in North Carolina on the way. By the 1960s, he said, he had progressed to murder, and he testified that he eventually was involved in roughly a dozen killings, some that he ordered, some that he orchestrated and some that he helped carry out.

Massino's testimony also highlighted his underworld executive acumen in addition to his lifetime of crime, much of it in service of the Bonanno family, with which he said he had been affiliated with for 33 or 34 years.

His unassuming appearance, with heavy jowls, drooping eyelids and an expansive midsection, was belied by his authoritative response to the prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Taryn A. Merkl, who took him through his personal and professional history. (He will not undergo cross-examination until Wednesday or Thursday.)

Massino began cooperating with the authorities after he was convicted of seven murders in 2004, for which he faced life in prison, and was set to go to trial for an eighth, for which he could have faced the death penalty. By testifying for the government, he is seeking some leniency. Dressed in a zippered black and gray paneled jogging suit with a white T-shirt visible beneath, he alternately rested his folded hands on the edge of the witness stand or on his belly as he answered her questions about his early crimes, his rise in the Bonanno family and his management of hundreds of members and associates after he became boss in 1991. □

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Forum seeks more

US action in Muslim world conflicts

By Karin Zeitvogel
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The head of a global Islamic group Tuesday called for the United States to be more active in solving conflicts in the Muslim world, in particular the long-running dispute between Israelis and Palestinians.

In a speech to open the US-Islamic World Forum, Ekmel-eddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said the Middle East peace process should be the cornerstone of US-Muslim world relations and called on Washington to take a “more active role in seeking solutions to conflict-ridden situations in the Muslim world.” The Muslim world has “seen improvements” in relations with the United States since President Barack Obama took office, said Ihsanoglu, but tensions between the two sides will persist if the Israel-Palestinian conflict is not resolved.

“There are certain concerns I should say certain grievances



Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) called on Washington to take a “more active role in seeking solutions to conflict-ridden situations in the Muslim world.”

concerning the Palestinian issue,” Ihsanoglu told reporters. “This should be addressed in a concrete way.

Without addressing these issues properly, we will still find certain problems between the Muslim world and the United States,” he said.

US Senator John Kerry called at the three-day forum for “anyone here who can intervene and play a role to do so,” to help revive the peace talks between Palestinians and Israelis, which broke down last year.

Since then, the Palestinians,

with backing from Britain, France and Germany, have been pushing for the Middle East diplomatic Quartet, comprised of the three European nations and the United States, to lay down clear parameters for any new negotiations.

Those parameters would include a reference to the borders that existed before the 1967 Six Day War, and the establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of both states. The Palestinians also want the Quartet to issue a condemnation of continuing Israeli settlement expansion.

On Tuesday, as the US-Islamic World forum opened, diplomats at the United Nations said Washington had blocked a bid to break the deadlock in the Middle East peace process by not agreeing to a meeting in Berlin where Britain, France and Germany wanted to outline a settlement to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

“We all know that if one wants to advance peace in the Middle East you don’t put the Palestinian question on the back burner, you put it on the

front burner. There has to be a peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinians,” the Palestinian envoy to the United Nations, Riyad Mansour, told. But despite the moribund state of the peace talks, Kerry said he was optimistic that a resolution on the long-running conflict could be finalized before the UN General Assembly in September.

“I hope the United States can do things to make a difference and I hope Israel will do things to make a difference,” Kerry said at the forum, also urging Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas to be flexible in his demands.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is expected to address the issue in a speech she will give to the forum later Tuesday. Officials from more than 30 Muslim majority nations, including Jordan, Turkey, Indonesia, Pakistan and Afghanistan are in Washington for the annual meeting, which aims to build greater understanding between the United States and Muslim countries.

In its eighth year, the forum is being held at a time of unprecedented change in the Arab world, with uprisings against autocratic leaders across the Middle East and North Africa. □

In Israel

Diplomacy breaks down amid Justin Bieber fever

By ISABEL KERSHNER
© 2011 New York Times

JERUSALEM — Teenage pop idol Justin Bieber became embroiled in a diplomatic imbroglio Tuesday when it emerged that plans for a meeting between the singer and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel had been called off, with the sides differing over why.

Bieber, who was discovered on YouTube and is famous for hits like “Baby,” is in Israel for an outdoor concert Thursday night.

A spokesman for Netanyahu said that his office had been approached with the idea of a meeting, and that the prime minister had been “open to



Fans line up to see the movie “Justin Bieber: Never Say Never”.

that.” The prime minister’s office then suggested including children from communities in southern Israel that have been under intense rocket fire from Gaza in recent days.

“Sadly,” the spokesman said, “that proved impossible,” suggesting that Bieber’s representatives had turned down the idea of including the children. □

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Fear of state takeover hangs over Detroit budget



The abandoned Michigan Central Station in Detroit.

DETROIT – Detroit must cut \$200 million in spending or face a takeover by the state of Michigan, Mayor Dave Bing said on Tuesday.

With the city's population dropping to a 100-year low, while its budget deficit is projected to climb to \$1.2 billion by fiscal 2015, Bing outlined a plan to the city council to balance Detroit's finances over five years.

That plan includes cuts in personnel costs, a one-year suspension of a payment to employee pensions, and a temporary gambling tax increase.

"If we are unable or unwilling to make these changes, an emergency financial manager will be appointed by the state

to make them for us. It's that simple," Bing said in his budget address.

In March, Governor Rick Snyder signed into law a bill that bulks up the state's ability to intervene in fiscally troubled local governments and appoint someone to oversee them. The new law also gives state-appointed financial managers the power to modify or end collective bargaining agreements with public sector workers a move that sparked pro-union demonstrations in the state capitol earlier this year. Bing, who pegged the current deficit at \$155 million, said the city council, unions and the pension boards had to work together to turn around

Detroit's finances. Otherwise, he said, the state will step in and "existing contracts will be voided, legislative powers will be stripped and decisions will be made without the input of elected officials or residents."

"I want to make sure we're not the group that's the answer to the trivia question Who was in charge of the city of Detroit when the emergency financial manager came in and took over?" said Council Member James Tate.

Detroit's shaky finances are a major concern in the \$2.9 trillion municipal bond market, where the city's bonds are rated in the junk category. Detroit was also cited in a recent Reuters poll as a potential candidate for rarely used municipal bankruptcy.

The mayor's proposed fiscal 2012 \$3.11 billion all-funds budget includes nearly \$1.22 billion of general fund spending, according to budget documents. Some of Bing's budget-balancing proposals depend on getting bills passed through the Republican-controlled Michigan Legislature. They include the higher tax on Detroit casinos, pension reforms, the suspension of state driver licenses for three unpaid Detroit parking tickets and the continuation of the city's ability to collect income and utility taxes. □

Budget cuts food aid, stewardship programs



Food pantry items are seen at the Food Bank For New York City Community Kitchen & Food Pantry of West Harlem in New York.

By Charles Abbott
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Programs that help poor mothers buy food and that share the cost of land stewardship would be cut under government-wide reductions unveiled on Tuesday.

The cuts are part of an agreement that averted a government shutdown. Lawmakers were to vote on the \$28 billion package this week.

According to the House Appropriations Committee, cuts totaling \$2.6 billion would be made in Agriculture Department funds for this fiscal year, ending on September 30. The USDA was expected to spend \$108 billion this year, the bulk of it on public nutrition programs, such as food stamps and school lunches.

With the year half-over, "it becomes twice as hard" to make the cuts, said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. He will meet with program directors later Tuesday to discuss how to implement the cuts.

A \$504 million cut in the so-called the WIC Women, Infants and Children program can be met by eliminating reserve funds, Vilsack told a meeting of the North American Agricultural Journalists.

WIC provides additional food to low-income pregnant women, new mothers and their children. The program was estimated to serve 9.3 million people this year at a cost of \$7.2 billion. □

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First lady wants you: to help military families



President Barack Obama looks on as First lady Michelle Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House during the launch the national initiative to support and honor America's service members and their families.

By NANCY BENAC
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Drawing in everyone from Best Buy's Geek Squad to the Afghan war

commander whom her husband fired, Michelle Obama ramped up her campaign to support military families on Tuesday and prodded every-

body else in the country to get in on the act.

The first lady, joined in the East Room by the president and the Bidens, launched "Joining Forces," an initiative to help military families who face a long list of unique challenges, such as moving around a lot and having a parent or spouse facing wartime perils far away.

Mrs. Obama didn't dangle federal grants or incentives, rather a call to be civic-minded. "This is a challenge to every segment of American society not to simply say thank you but to mobilize, take action and make a real commitment to supporting our military families," Mrs. Obama

said.

President Obama, for his part, said it was time to do more to support "the force behind the force."

"They, too, are the reason we've got the finest military in the world," he said.

Over the past year, Mrs. Obama's primary focus was an ambitious campaign against childhood obesity, in which she urged businesses, non-profits, school and others to get involved in fighting the problem. Now Mrs. Obama, working closely with Jill Biden, the wife of the vice president, wants to use that same model to tackle military family issue.

As a down payment, the

White House released a list of companies and groups that already have signed on to the effort. For example, Best Buy's Geek Squad will help military families use technology to connect with loved ones who are deployed, Sears and WalMart will offer transfers to military spouses who have to move, and the national PTA will expand efforts to help military children adjust to new schools. With the presidential campaign getting under way, military families are a motherhood-and-apple pie issue that can only help burnish the image of a first lady whose patriotism was called into question by critics on the right during the last campaign. □

Budget deal would free up Texas education money



Gov. Rick Perry

By CHRIS TOMLINSON
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Gov. Rick Perry is praising a deal that would cut the strings attached to \$830 million in stimulus funds for Texas. Perry has repeatedly blasted Austin congressman Lloyd Doggett for requiring Texas to use the money to boost education spending, not just use it to replace state funds. Republicans negotiated the repeal of the Doggett amendment when it cut a deal to avoid

a government shutdown. Congress is expected to approve the deal later this week. Perry calls the Democratic measure a political stunt that never should have passed and is praising Republicans in Congress for getting it repealed. Texas is facing a \$27 billion budget shortfall over the next two years. The federal budget deal negotiated to avoid a government shutdown would remove the strings a Democratic congressman had attached to \$830 million in stimulus funds for public education in Texas. If passed into law as expected later this week, the bill would remove a requirement that Republican Gov. Rick Perry use the funds to supplement existing school spending rather than just replace state funds in order to balance the budget. □

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In Massachusetts

Jury convicts mom who withheld cancer meds



Kristen LaBrie is handcuffed in court after she was found guilty on all four counts, including attempted murder, at Lawrence Superior Court in Lawrence, Ma.

By DENISE LAVOIE

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Mass. – A Massachusetts woman who

withheld at-home chemotherapy medications from her autistic, cancer-stricken son was convicted of attempted murder Tuesday by jurors who dismissed her claim that she thought the side effects of the treatment could kill him.

Kristen LaBrie also was found guilty of child endangerment and assault and battery for failing to give her son, Jeremy Fraser, at least five months of cancer medications after the boy was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 2006. He died in 2009 at age 9.

LaBrie, 38, told the jury she stopped giving him the medications because she couldn't bear to see how sick the side effects made him.

Prosecutors portrayed her as a single mother seething with

resentment because she had to care for Jeremy alone.

LaBrie, who appeared teary-eyed but resigned as the verdict was read, consoled her sobbing sister in the front row. "Tell everybody I'm OK. It's going to be OK. I love you, too," LaBrie said.

As she was led away in handcuffs, she mouthed "I love you" to her family.

Jeremy's oncologist, Dr. Alison Friedmann of Massachusetts General Hospital, had testified that she told LaBrie her son's cancer had a cure rate of 85 percent to 90 percent under a two-year, five-phase treatment plan that included some hospital stays, regular visits to the hospital clinic to receive chemotherapy treatments and at-home administration of several cancer medications. □



Former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter of the U.S. talks to a journalist during a conference entitled "Iraq, the aftermath - prospects for peace and security" at the University of Westminster in central London.

Underage sex trial of former U.N. weapons inspector opens

By Dave Warner

Associated Press

STROUDSBURG, PA – A jury in the underage sex trial of an outspoken former United Nations weapons inspector Scott Ritter on Tuesday watched a nude video of him sent over the Internet to a person he thought was a 15-year-old girl.

The person who received the photo was not the girl but Detective Ryan Venneman of Barrett Township, one of the first witnesses to testify on opening day of the trial in Monroe County Common Pleas Court. □

First shots mark 150 years since start of Civil War



Gunners in Civil War garb load a bronze cannon in smoke from a previous blast, during an artillery demonstration at Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

By Harriet McLeod

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, South Carolina – In the pre-dawn hours on Tuesday, about two dozen Union Army re-enactors raised a 33-star American flag over Fort Sumter in South Carolina's Charleston Harbor. Soon after, a signal shot from a

nearby fort sparkled in the air and cannon fire commenced, just as it did 150 years ago to begin the American Civil War. The first shots fired on April 12, 1861, marked the start of what would be a defining time in U.S. history.

The Civil War took 620,000 American lives and ended the

country's institution of slavery.

The National Park Service and the city of Charleston aimed for the sesquicentennial events to be both inclusive and true to history.

"Four million enslaved African Americans saw this as their revolution," said Robert Sutton, chief historian of the National Park Service, whose theme for the sesquicentennial nationwide is "Civil War to Civil Rights."

"Today we commemorate the beginning of the Civil War, but we also celebrate the fact that, with the end of the war and with the 13th amendment to the Constitution, more people were freed from enslavement at one time than at any time in world history," Sutton told the crowd gathered at Fort Sumter for commemorative ceremonies. □

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Easter breakfast

PALM BEACH - Easter is the religious celebration of the end of the fasting period, which began on Ash Wednesday, right after carnival. For many people it is a holiday to relax, to let go and to savor the good things in life, such as having a leisurely breakfast at Salt & Pepper Restaurant in the Arawak Gardens, across from the Occidental Resort. Three different options are available, not only until 11 am, but during Easter until 1 pm.

The first one is called American Breakfast, and it entails two eggs any style, butter and jelly, bacon, hash browns or sausages, a pancake, orange juice and coffee or tea for just \$ 12.50. Or you can opt for the Healthy Breakfast, which is a bowl of fresh fruit, Austrian brown toast, butter and jelly, freshly squeezed orange juice, coffee or tea for \$ 10.--; if you add yoghurt, there is an extra \$ 2.—charge. The Salt & Pepper Royal Breakfast starts off with eggs any style, smoked salmon, hash browns or sausages, a toasted bagel, bacon, butter and jelly, a mimosa and coffee or tea. □

Aruba International Film Festival heats up for 2nd year



2011 Festival Date Set For June 10-16

ORANJESTAD - Building on the success of the inaugural Aruba International Film Festival (AIFF) last June, which attracted stars and films from around the world and entertained thousands over the course of a week, it has been confirmed that the island nation of Aruba will host a second edition of the AIFF this June (June 10-16). Initial details surrounding the 2011 Film Festival were unveiled today at a press conference by AIFF Founders and Producers Giuseppe Cioccarelli and Jonathan Vieira.

Actors, directors, producers, writers, industry executives and foreign media will once again be invited to converge on the island to experience firsthand why AIFF is on its way to becoming the film industry's "must-attend" summer event. Local festival goers will be able to see a wide variety of films from around the world and experience an exciting, one-of-a-kind event that brings Hollywood and worldwide cinema to their home.

Viera welcomes the support of the Aruban government

saying "AIFF is a good example of how government money is used to support local businesses and to promote the tourist industry on the Island. The festival generated tremendous worldwide publicity for Aruba last year. The great press throughout North American, Europe and South America is a testament not only to the festival but the entire local community who participated and brought it to life as the international media looked on."

Centered once again at the Paseo Herencia Entertainment Center, the second edition of the Aruba International Film Festival aims to be even bigger than last year's inaugural event, which showcased 25 films from 16 different countries and attracted an array of notable film industry names such as legendary leading man Richard Gere, Oscar® and Golden Globe® nominee writer and director Guillermo Arriaga ("Babel" "21 Grams", "The Burning Plain"), multiple Academy Award® winning editor Thelma Schoonmaker ("The Departed" "Goodfellas" "The



Aviator"); Academy Award® nominated actress Patricia Clarkson ("Pieces of April" "Shutter Island" "Lars and the Real Girl"); Oscar® nominated actor, director and producer Griffin Dunne ("Game 6" "My Girl" "Johnny Dangerously"), popular Venezuelan actress Rudy Rodriguez, actor Alfonso Herrera and famous Indian choreographer Longinus Fernandes ("Slumdog Millionaire").

Distinguished writer, director and producer Claudio Masenza, a revered member of the international film community for over 30 years (bringing with him years of experience as a member of the selection committees for the world renowned Venice Film Festival and Rome Film Festival) is reprising his role as AIFF Ar-

tistic Director. He will again be selecting films that reflect the cultural diversity that epitomizes the island of Aruba. Commented Masenza, "I was truly impressed with the love, passion and curiosity shown by the people of Aruba for the selection of international movies - the Italian selection, the Indian selection, and so on." Masenza said he intends to again focus on finding international variety in the selections. Encouraged by strong local support last year, AIFF plans to expand its popular "Spotlight" series, which was created to showcase movies from Aruban and Caribbean filmmakers. Having proved its popularity among locals, extra resources will be applied to create a broader experience for the series. □

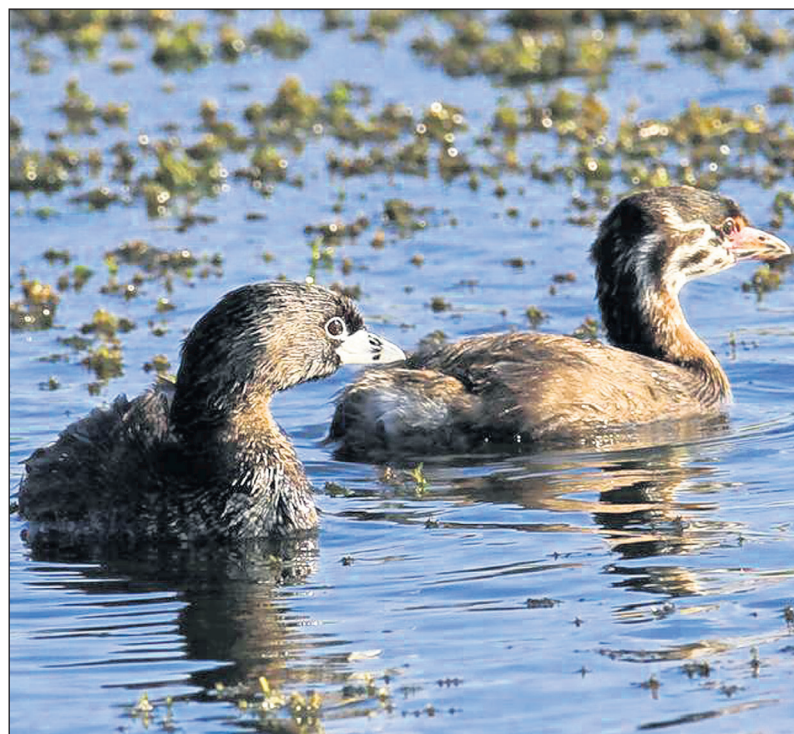
Aruba's Birdlife conservations presents: Save our birds



The Pied-billed Grebe can be found from Canada to Argentina; a true American. At Tierra del Sol, three pairs have successfully bread young this year.

This bird is a true diver and whenever danger may arise it escapes by diving and swimming away rapidly under water; sometimes quite a challenge for the photographer to follow. In this picture the parent to the left has a broad black band encircling its bill. Its young still has extra camouflage traits on its head. □

Photo by Greg Peterson



The greater yellowlegs is a regular non-breeding visitor. They breed in Alaska and Canada and travel to Aruba as one of our special repeat tourists. At our salinjas they enjoy small fish, crustaceans and worms and never leave a chance pass by to snack on insects as desert...

In English : Greater Yellowlegs, Papiamentu : Snepi pia hel grandi, Dutch : Grote Geelpootruiter, Scientific : Tringa melano-leuca. It is very important that the entire community participates in the Boa Constrictor capture program to eliminate the invasive predator the Boa Constrictor against our nature and future of wild birds and fauna. □

Photo by Greg Peterson

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Casa Tua Méditerranée, situated on the second floor allows patrons a trip around the Mediterranean without leaving the terrace. The chefs of Casa Tua Méditerranée picked the most delicious dishes from France, Italy, Greece, and Tunisia, and paired them with most famous

Middle-Eastern appetizers and salads to present a formidable regional trip, enjoyed in a stylish indoor area with cozy lounge, or on the terrace overlooking the bustling plaza below. Casa Tua Méditerranée is open nightly from 5.30pm to 11.30pm, featuring Oriental belly dancing shows. Happy-Hour 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

At Hoshi Sushi & Bar, Japanese and Thai specialties are prepared with the freshest

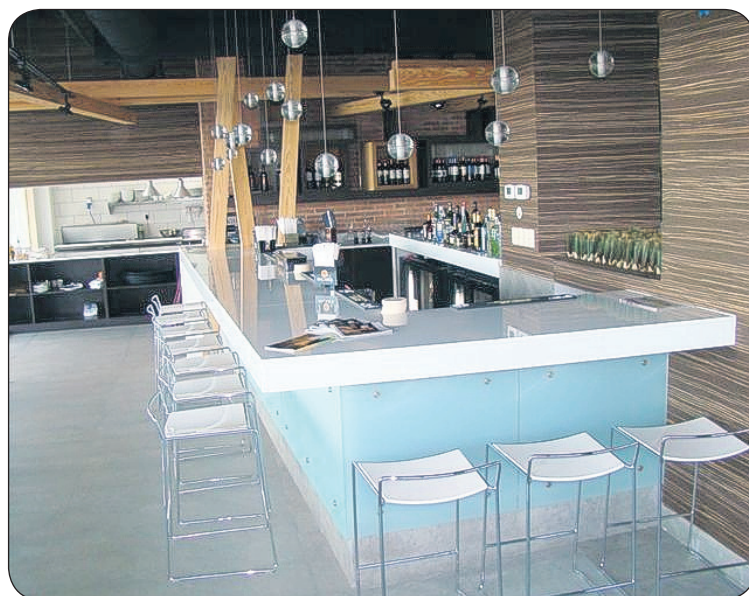
Caribbean ingredients. The delicate flavors of traditional sushi and the spice of daring variations—along with an exotic cocktail or two—take diners on a culinary adventure in the Far East. The second-floor restaurant enjoys a Japanese style décor, serving sashimi, sushi rolls, salads and wok creations sake wines and Japanese beers, also on the outdoor terrace. Open daily 5:30pm to 11pm, catering and delivery service, available.

Kokomos, a casual tropical eatery, named after the Beach Boys' famous No. 1 hit, serves an array of cuisines including Italian, Caribbean, Creole, and Indonesian. Local and Caribbean art for sale adorns the walls, adding to the restaurant's tropical motif. Din-

ers can choose to eat indoors or on the al fresco terrace, as the chef turns out perfectly grilled fish and meats. Try the famous Keshi Yena, Chicken Curry and Aruban Style Fresh Catch. Kokomos's bar with fun interactive bartenders, invites patrons to linger and dance after dinner, until 2am weekdays and 3am weekends.

Kaffa's menu is extensive, featuring fusion cuisine, paired with a great Martini

and Cocktail list. Appetizers, Soups, Creams and Crepes, twelve Vegetarian salads, Black Angus selections, as well as poultry, pastas, risottos, casual sandwiches, Tex Mex favorites, fresh fish and seafood are served for dinner daily 5pm to 11pm. Kaffa's specialty coffees and skilled baristas, practice latte art with every cup of coffee they serve. Bon Appetit, Itadakimasu, Buen Provecho, Bon appétit, Eet Smakelijk!! ☐



Looking for renewed magic in Beaujolais



By ERIC ASIMOV
© 2011 New York Times
(Wines of The Times)

You don't have to scratch too far under the surface of most wine lovers to find fond, possibly romanticized memories of a special bottle that changed everything for them.

Before that bottle they may have liked wine well enough. But then, often by chance, they drank a particular glass that opened them up to the range of possibilities in a bottle, transforming

them into wine fanatics who forever after would plot ways of repeating that illuminating experience.

Often, the epiphany came after drinking one of the greats: a Bordeaux, a Burgundy, a Barolo, an old Napa cabernet. The pantheon was not a prerequisite: For me, the wine that opened the doors was a humble barbera d'Alba.

Younger people today, though, will rarely have the opportunities to drink the great wines that previous generations were almost able

to take for granted. They are simply too expensive.

Fortunately, far more good wines are available now than 30 years ago, especially on the humble end. Beginning wine drinkers have many more options for that transformative bottle. I think if I were to choose one wine today to serve with the hope of galvanizing interest, I might very well pick what for me epitomizes sheer deliciousness: a good Beaujolais.

It seems both an obvious choice and an absurd one. In the last quarter of the 20th century, Beaujolais' historic reputation as a juicy, joyous wine was at odds with its descent into a banal beverage more noteworthy for the marketing success of Beaujolais nouveau than for pleasure in the glass.

But in the last 15 years, Beaujolais has come back strong. Numerous small producers, focused squarely on quality, have seized the initiative in the region, setting a template for success in

Beaujolais. In the process, they have not only revived the reputation of Beaujolais for exuberant, spirited wines, but have also won the region new respect for complexity and even age-worthiness. This is especially true of wines from the 10 crus, the highest echelon of Beaujolais terroir, which include the five best-known: Brouilly, Fleurie, Julienas, Morgon and Moulin-a-Vent.

To get a sense of how far Beaujolais has come, raves for the 2009 vintage brought about a huge demand, something unheard of in this particular corner of the wine world since the heights of interest in Beaujolais nouveau. Yet along with the huzzahs, I have also heard a few dissenting voices suggesting that the '09s are not above reproach.

To judge for ourselves, the wine panel recently tasted 20 bottles from the '09 vintage, focusing on the five less-heralded crus: Chenas, Chiroubles, Cote de Brouilly,



Regnie and St.-Amour. For the tasting, Florence Fabricant and I were joined by Daniel Johnnes, wine director for the Daniel Boulud restaurant group, and Byron Bates, a sommelier who plans to open a natural wine bar in the East Village this fall. □

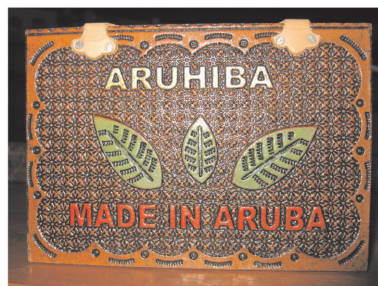
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced

cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba



he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday



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Concierge's job: anything within the law

By Kyle Wagner

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When the group on the third floor called down to ask for some Ping-Pong balls, the concierges at the Sebastian Hotel in Vail, Colo., didn't bat an eye.

When the same group wanted plastic cups an hour later, the concierges said, sure, no problem.

But when the call came down soon after for banquet tables, the Sebastian staff collectively rolled their eyes and put an end to it.

"We'll try to accommodate just about any request," says Iva Delorey, guest services manager for the Sebastian. "But that was going a little too far."

Delorey says her main job description at one of Vail's newest and hottest properties is "trying to make sure that the guests have a wonderful time" — stopping, maybe, at Olympics-style beer pong in the rooms — and that includes overseeing the three-member concierge department that the hotel staffs two at a time from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

By definition, a concierge is a hotel employee who "assists guests."

It's a tradition that evolved in Europe from positions in apartment buildings, where concierges would serve as butlers who watched over the units when residents went out of town.

Nowadays, in hotels around the world, the concierge is expected to assist in whatever way the guest asks, from making dinner reservations to helping plan the ultimate wedding proposal.

"They can do anything for a guest, starting with pre-arrival, such as how to get to us or how they are going to be spending their time," says De-



The Benjamin Hotel in Manhattan offers guests a money-back guarantee on a good night's sleep. It provides a "sleep concierge" to help guests with sleep problems and offers a "pillow menu" with 11 choices, including a pillow filled with buckwheat hulls that conform to the neck and the head, a "snore no more" pillow, a five-foot body cushion made of polyester fiber, a vinyl cushion filled with either warm or cold water and a pillow embedded with magnets. Eileen McGill, sleep concierge at the Benjamin Hotel in Manhattan, with selections from a pillow "menu" in October.

(Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times)

lorey. "Do they need lift tickets or ski lessons, or are they celebrating a birthday here and they want balloons and cake in the room?"

The truth, however, is that the majority of travelers never use a hotel concierge, either because the concierge is considered to be a perk for elite guests or they feel that their request is too trivial.

"A lot of people are intimidated by the concierge," says Delorey. "That's a shame, because we are trained to have all of this information. We know the area, and we want to share our knowledge."

We asked Delorey to give us the inside scoop on working with a hotel concierge.

QUESTION: What is OK to request from a concierge?

ANSWER: Dinner reservations, restaurant recommendations, places to go and things to do in the area, directions

or for maps, if you are looking for a store that sells certain things — these are all things that the concierge is well trained to recommend

and help you plan. Also, people come on vacation and they forget things, so the concierge can help you track them down, and even go get them for you if you're busy. I usually

get very excited when I get asked about things they don't do on a regular basis, like a hot air balloon when they are going to propose, or a private sleigh ride.

Q: What isn't OK to request?

A: We have had a guest before ask for an escort. We referred them to the Yellow Pages. That is not something we are able to help them with. And anything illegal, of course, or destructive.

But other than that, it's hard to think of anything we won't at least consider. □

By definition, a concierge is a hotel employee who "assists guests."

A Big Fee Festival

By JOE SHARKEY

© 2011 New York Times

I am not so big on luxury travel. I'm simply too cheap, even when I'm traveling on the company dime.

These days, living in southern Arizona, my idea of first-class transportation is a good horse (All that legroom! No security agents pawing at you and your saddlebag!). And I'm still bragging about the hotel rate I



got the last time I was in New York: a cool \$89 a night at the La Quinta Inn near Kennedy International Airport — including free breakfast and Internet, plus an airport shuttle.

Nevertheless, after a long recession in the hospitality industry that cut deepest at the top-end properties, upscale hotels have been climbing back. According to Smith Travel Research, the leading industry analyst, occupancy rates were up 18.1 percent and average room rates up 9.9 percent in the "upper-upscale" segment of the domestic hotel industry for the week that ended April 2, over the comparable week in 2010. Both rate increases led the industry. Luxury hotel people now use terms like "frugal fatigue" to explain why many upscale customers who had switched to less expensive hotels with fewer amenities during the recession are now coming back. But most executives I know in this exalted segment of the industry have also been saying that once good times did return, luxury customers would probably be far more demanding of "value."

As to "value," let's consider what many business travelers regard as the most annoying aspect of staying in these hotels: being nickel and dimed with fees and surcharges. We have become accustomed to free Internet, free parking, free breakfast and maybe even a free nightly cocktail hour at many midscale and sometimes even economy-scale chain hotels. But five-star hotels and luxury convention hotels have long been notorious for slapping on extra fees for a wide range of services.

Like many business travelers, I'll opt for the convenient midscale hotel brand whenever I can. But on occasion, there is no choice but a high-end hotel for events like days-long business conferences.

I did this last week, when I stayed for two nights at the splendidly named Arizona Biltmore A Waldorf Astoria Resort, a venerable resort spread across 39 lushly manicured acres in Phoenix. It's a beautiful property that does a big convention business. I wish I could say my stay reflected the new attitude toward value. But let's examine the billing and fees.

When I booked in early March, I got a confirmation, \$654.70 for both nights, including taxes. My credit card was billed for a one-night deposit, \$327.35.

But when I checked out, the total room rate came to \$672.70 — \$18 more. The breakdown on my statement at checkout was interesting. There was a charge of \$12 for something mysteriously listed as "Bellman Grat-Porterage," a gratuity fee for bellhop service I did not require or use. □

Forgotten underclass: part-time workers

By Dina Bakst
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Today is Equal Pay Day, which symbolizes how many weeks into 2011 women must work simply to match what men made in 2010.

It's a stunning pay gap, but there's a growing class of workers whose conditions are even more outrageous: part-timers. The great recession has forced millions of full-time workers to accept the second-class status of lower pay and near-zero benefits. Indeed, involuntary part-time employment has doubled in the past five years to 8.4 million, while the total number of part-timer workers has swollen to 27 million. Yet for all we hear about their plight, they might as well be working on the moon.

Private stimulus

This must change. Promoting high-quality, part-time work is not only a basic fairness issue it is sound policy for a sluggish economy. Equal pay for equal work would raise family incomes across the board, providing a much-needed private stimulus.

Who are these part-time workers? Two-thirds are women, most of them mothers who are trying to provide for their families or hang onto their careers while also raising children.

An increasing number are men who have lost full-time jobs or who are looking for a second job as family incomes become more precarious.

Many are seniors, facing the same economic pressures.

Part-time workers pay a steep price, very simply, because part-time work usually pays less per hour than the same or equivalent work performed by full-timers. A recent report from the Joint Economic Committee, "The Earnings Penalty for Part-time Work: An Obstacle to Equal Pay," confirms this fact. For example, in sales and related occupations, part-time work-



Dina Bakst is pictured center.

ers earn as little as 58 cents for every dollar of earnings a full-time worker receives for the same time on the job.

Part-time workers, routinely excluded from basic labor laws, are also disproportionately denied such benefits as health insurance, pensions, family leave, and sick days.

Merits of the Dutch model

It doesn't have to be this way. For example, in the Netherlands, a major shift to fairly compensated part-time work has proven to be an effective strategy in combating unemployment. While the Dutch system is not perfect, the country's commitment to well-paid part-time jobs with benefits has made workers there, particularly mothers,

far less vulnerable than they are here in the United States. Whether it could have the same effect here might be open to debate, but it is an approach worth

trying in the face of historic unemployment. Promoting high quality part-time work is also good for business. Overwhelming data shows flexible work arrangements help lower turnover, increase productivity, and improve employee loyalty. In these tough economic times, part-time work is also an effective strategy to reduce costs and minimize layoffs. Some argue the part-time penalty is justified because many part-time workers choose to work part-time. But choices are not made in a vacuum. In a country where millions of workers are denied paid sick days, family leave, and any control over their work hours. □

In a country where millions of workers are denied paid sick days, family leave, and any control over their work hours.

Congress playing chicken with debt debate

By Susan Montag
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Now that Congress has passed a budget and we have avoided a government shutdown, we can all take a deep breath and relax, right? Not so fast. If you are tuned in to politics at all, you have probably heard talk about the national debt ceiling—and about the dire consequences we could face if Congress does not vote to raise it. Will we see lawmakers play another game of chicken with financial disaster? The answer is: quite possibly.

Before 1917, Congress used to authorize every Treasury debt sale. But as World War I began, lawmakers decided to set an overall limit

—now known as the debt ceiling so the Treasury could issue as many Liberty Bonds as it needed within that limit. Since that time, anytime the government gets close to the debt ceiling, Congress



Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.

is required to raise it, which has happened 74 times since 1962. The last time the debt ceiling was raised was in February 2010, when it was placed at \$14.3 trillion.

Now the United States will hit the limit again. According to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, May 16 is the new deadline for avoiding big problems that would come with hitting the debt ceiling. In a letter to Congress, Geithner warned of dire consequences that could ensue if the debt ceiling is not raised.

"Default would cause a financial crisis potentially more severe than the crisis from which we are only now starting to recover," Geithner wrote in his April 4 letter to Congress, adding that failure to raise the debt ceiling is "unthinkable."

Geithner has repeatedly emphasized that catastrophe could ensue if the debt ceiling is not raised. In an earlier letter to Congress, he wrote, "[C]hanging the debt limit does not alter or increase the obligations we have as a nation; it simply permits the Treasury to fund those obligations Congress has already established."

The Treasury Department could hold off the consequences for about eight extra weeks by taking "extraordinary measures." But, Geithner said, once that time runs out, the U.S. government would begin to default on its obligations. Military salaries. □

A wandering eye:

Good for your relationship?

NEW YORK — Researchers discover that, when restricted from scoping out good-looking strangers, people's ardor for their current partners suffers

Forbidden fruit may be sweet, as the old saying goes, but it can sure sour a relationship. Still, a new study suggests that if your partner's eye wanders, it might be best to just let him or her enjoy the view. Here, a guide to the research: What was the study about?

Researchers tested the idea that we want what we can't have by conducting experiments on college students in various stages of romantic relationships. In a report published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, the researchers say that "reining in a wandering eye leads people to devalue commitment and remember cute strangers better" the same way "people want jobs they cannot have, salaries they cannot earn, and cars they cannot afford." That means that "you may want to think twice be-



Meredith Melnick

fore slapping your boyfriend on the wrist for cocking his head at that hot girl who just walked by," says Andrea Uku at StyleCaster.

How was the research conducted?

In one experiment, 42 undergrads were shown pairs of faces on a computer screen; each pair consisted of an arguably attractive person and a more average-looking person. Some of the students had their attention subtly diverted from the more attractive faces. This group subsequently reported that they were less satisfied in their relationships and more open to infidelity than the other testees. A similar experiment found that students who were diverted from concen-

trating on the hotties actually remembered and recognized them more consistently.

So it's OK if your partner drools over other people?

Not exactly. If your partner does that while you stew in jealousy, "there's probably a larger problem at hand," says Meredith Melnick. And these studies do have some limitations, says Dr. John Grohol at PsychCentral. Most of the college students were in relatively new relationships, so it's not clear if the findings would apply to older couples. The researchers also didn't track the subjects over time, so they don't know if the changes in attitudes led to actual infidelity or other relationship problems.

What if you don't even want to ogle others?

Some research has found that men and women who don't notice beautiful people of the opposite sex "tend to be more satisfied in their own relationships and are more likely to stay with their partners long term," says Melnick. □



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In Ivory Coast

Ouattara urges peace after rival captured



President Alassane Ouattara, center, poses for a group photo with commanding officers from the republican forces, at the Golf Hotel in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

By Mark John
Associated Press

ABIDJAN — Ivory Coast's internationally recognized president, Alassane Ouattara, called for peace after his rival was arrested with the help of French forces, but he faces a huge task reuniting a country shattered by civil war. Ouattara, who won a November presidential election according to U.N.-certified results, can finally begin asserting his authority over the West African country after his predecessor Laurent Gbagbo was captured on Monday, ending more than four months of stand-off that descended into all-out conflict. Gbagbo, who had refused to step down after 10 years in power, was arrested after French forces in the former colony closed in on the bunker where he had been holed up for the past week, and placed under the control of Ouattara's forces. That has left Ouattara as the sole leader in charge of the country, although many analysts say it may not be enough

to end the fighting that has bloodied the world's top cocoa grower. "I call on my fellow countrymen to abstain from all forms of reprisal and violence," Ouattara said in a speech on his TCI television late on Monday, calling for "a new era of hope." "Our country has turned a painful page in its history," he said, urging marauding youth militias to lay down their weapons and promising to restore security to the battered nation. Ethnic violence has festered during Ouattara's lengthy tug-of-war with Gbagbo, particularly in the west of the country, with hundreds of people killed as both sides in the conflict committed atrocities against civilians, aid groups say. Ouattara said Gbagbo, his wife and aides who have been detained will face justice. But he also promised a South African-styled Truth and Reconciliation Commission to shed light on all crimes and human rights abuses. □

In Egypt

Mubarak in hospital after probe summons

CAIRO — Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, 82, was admitted to hospital on Tuesday, state television reported, two days after he was summoned to take part in a probe by the public prosecutor. Mubarak, ousted on February 11 after 30 years in office, was summoned by the public prosecutor on Sunday as part of investigations into the killing of protesters and embezzlement of public funds. Mubarak denied any wrongdoing in a recorded message broadcast on Al Arabiya television on Sunday. Mubarak has suffered from health problems in recent



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak addresses the nation. years and went to Germany for gall bladder surgery in March 2010. "Mubarak entered Sharm el-Sheikh international hospital for treatment," state television reported.

The website of the state-owned publisher of Al Ahram newspaper said the president might not have to go to Cairo to attend the investigation because of his admission to hospital. Mubarak had vowed to die in Egypt when he addressed the country's 80 million people shortly before he stepped down in the wake of mass protests. Al Ahram newspaper reported earlier on Tuesday that Mubarak had received the summons to appear before a Cairo court for questioning and that special security was being arranged. □

Belarus hunts culprits after deadly bombing

By Andrei Makhovsky
Associated Press

MINSK — Police in Belarus carried out spot checks on roads and at stations and airports on Tuesday after a bomb blast tore through a crowded metro station in the capital Minsk, killing at least 12 people.

As police hunted those responsible for planting and detonating the bomb on Monday evening by remote control, a top official from the prosecutor general's office described the attack as an act of terrorism, unprecedented in

Belarus. The KGB state security service issued the description of a heavily-built man of medium height in his 20s, who it said was a suspect in the attack. Three other people had been detained for questioning but were not suspects. □

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Vatican sanctions Belgian bishop



Bishop of Bruges Roger Vangheluwe, in Bruges, Belgium.

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY – The Vatican has sanctioned a Belgian bishop who resigned last year after admitting he had sexually abused his nephew, saying he can no longer act as a priest in public and may risk further church sanctions.

The Vatican on Tuesday clarified the punishment against the former Bruges Bishop Roger Vangheluwe after Belgian bishops reported over the

weekend that he had merely been sent outside Belgium for spiritual and psychological counseling, a seemingly cushy punishment given the seriousness of the crime.

The decision was the first known application of the Vatican's new sex abuse norms approved last year giving the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith jurisdiction to investigate and punish bishops not just priests who abuse minors.

The ultimate possible penalty: defrocking, or laicization in church-speak.

Previously, when bishops committed canonical crimes the pope dealt with them by delegating the cases to various Vatican offices or the Roman Rota, a Vatican court.

The Vatican has long been accused by sex abuse victims of having let off the hook those bishops who themselves molested minors or helped cover up the crimes of priests who did. □

'Heavy fighting' between Sudan army, Darfur rebels

By Simon Martelli
Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan – Heavy clashes between the Sudanese army and a coalition of armed groups in Northern Darfur has caused a number of casualties on both sides, the army and the rebels said on Tuesday.

"An SAF (northern army) patrol was attacked on Sunday by joint forces of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and (Minni) Minnawi's branch of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) in north Darfur," army spokesman Sawarmi Khaled Saad told.

"The fighting resulted in a number of casualties and people injured from both sides, but we don't have the details yet. SAF destroyed 10 of their vehicles." The joint UN-African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) confirmed there had been fighting in an area far north of the state



A handout picture released by the United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur shows members of the coalition of rebel forces who control the village of Fanga Suk, West Darfur.

capital El-Fasher, and reported more clashes on Tuesday.

"UNAMID has received information from an armed movement that its position in Muzbat, located approximately 60 kilometres northeast of the mission's nearest team site, was attacked on April 10," said a source with the peacekeepers.

"Yesterday (Monday), armed elements of JEM and SLA-Abdelwahid were observed in the region."

"Then, shortly afterwards, peacekeepers witnessed a buildup of government forces. Fighting was reported today between the armed movements and the government," the source added. □

In Uruguay

Amnesty for dictatorship crimes debated



President Jose Mujica attends a press conference at the presidential palace in Lima, Peru.

By RAUL O. GARCES
Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay – Uruguay's senate debated Tuesday whether to annul an amnesty for crimes against humanity committed during the 1973-85 dictatorship, with a narrow majority expected to overrule voters who upheld the law in two referendums.

Backed by leftist President Jose Mujica, the measure would then return to the lower house for minor changes and could become law by May 20 the day Uruguay honors the political prisoners who were kidnapped and killed during the military junta's crackdown on leftists.

mocracy.

While Argentina has made a priority of prosecuting "dirty war" crimes and Chileans are proud of the human rights prosecutions by their independent judiciary, Uruguay has largely avoided probing old wounds.

The military amnesty law passed in 1986 as a complement to an earlier amnesty for crimes by leftists has protected most uniformed officials ever since. A peace commission found in 2003 that 175 political opponents were eliminated during the 12-year dictatorship, including 26 in clandestine torture centers in Uruguay. □

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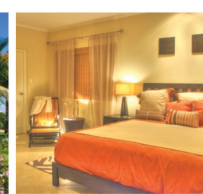
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Over war crimes in Sri Lanka

Rights panel hands report to UN chief



Sri Lankan military personnel march in Kataragama.

UNITED NATIONS – A panel of UN experts on Tuesday handed over a report on alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka against Tamil separatists to UN leader Ban Ki-moon, his spokesman said. But the United Nations would not say whether the panel was allowed to go to Sri Lanka, which publicly had refused to recognize the three-member panel. “During a meeting today in New York, the secretary general received the members of the panel of experts established to advise him on accountability issues with respect to the conflict in Sri Lanka,” said deputy spokesman Farhan Haq. “He will study the report carefully and will determine his next steps in the coming days,” Haq told reporters. A copy of the report has been sent to the Sri Lankan government “as a matter of courtesy before making it

public,” the spokesman added. Haq would not say whether the panel had been allowed to go to Sri Lanka, declaring only that details would be in the report when it is released. The United States has led calls for a full investigation into the deaths of civilians in the final months of fighting between Sri Lankan troops and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Troops wiped out the rebels in May 2009, ending decades of civil war. The United Nations said at least 7,000 civilians perished in the final fighting, while international rights groups have put the toll at more than 30,000. The United States said last week that future cooperation with Sri Lanka depended on improvements in its human rights record and an accounting of the bloodshed at the end of the war. □

Australia to clamp down on gambling

SYDNEY – Australian leader Julia Gillard vowed on Tuesday to clamp down on problem slot machine gambling as the pubs that host the popular games launched a Aus\$20 million advertising blitz attacking the move. Clubs and pubs this week unleashed their campaign against the government’s proposal to force those who gamble on the “pokies” to sign registration cards on which they set limits on how much they can lose. Prime Minister Gillard, whose coalition government holds a fragile one-seat majority, said problem gambling caused “human misery” and should not be profited from. “I come from a part of Melbourne where we know what it’s like to see people who put so much money into poker machines that they break the family budget, they can’t feed the kids, they end up with their houses being repossessed by the bank,” Gillard told reporters in Canberra. “People like to have a bet but I don’t think they like to see their fellow Australians suffer, so it’s the right thing to have an appropriate package to tackle problem gambling.” Some 600,000 Australians four percent of the adult pop-



People play slot machines at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek in 2010

ulation are estimated to play pokies at least weekly, with about 95,000 classed as problem gamblers in a study published last year by the Productivity Commission. The commission recommended imposing voluntary loss limits to address the issue and Gillard promised to introduce such a scheme by 2014 as part of a deal with independent MP Andrew Wilkie, who is key to her grip on power. But the Australian Hotels Association and Clubs Australia hit back in their advertising campaign, arguing that the plan amounts to a “licence just so you can have a \$5 punt” and will involve a loss of freedom and privacy.

The clubs, which pay hefty state government charges to have the money-spinning machines, argue that they strongly contribute to communities and sporting organisations and would suffer under the proposed changes. The Productivity Commission found that the pokies, a common feature of Australia’s pubs, carried an especially high risk for problem gambling, which comes at enormous social cost. Australians’ gambling losses totalled more than Aus\$19 billion in 2008-2009, according to the commission, with each player an average of about Aus\$1,500 out of pocket every year. □

Pass the Boone Pickens bill



By **JOE NOCERA**

© 2011 New York Times

On Wednesday, amid all the hullabaloo over the budget battles, a simple, discrete and largely overlooked bill was dropped into the congressional hopper. Sponsored by two Democrats and two Republicans — that's right: an actual bipartisan piece of legislation — its official title is the New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions Act, or the Nat Gas Act, for short. People in the know, however, call it the Boone Pickens bill.

Boone Pickens and I go way back; he was the subject of my first-ever business story, for Texas Monthly, nearly 30 years ago. Though we've had our ups and downs since then, and though our politics are very different, I like and respect him. In recent years, we've become friends. Which is to say: I've got a bias here.

Then again, so does Boone. Although he is usually described as a Texas oilman, that's a bit of a misnomer. Boone has spent most of his career drilling not for oil but for natural gas, which he knows more about than just about anyone. His late-life occupation has been running a natural gas-oriented hedge fund, which has made him, at the age of 82, a billionaire several times over.

Out of that deep knowledge has come a powerful belief: that the country's energy salvation depends on moving away from the fuel we don't have — namely, oil, where imports, some of which come “from our enemies” (to quote Boone), account for two-thirds of our oil needs. Instead, we should move to a

fuel we have in abundance: natural gas. Most experts say there is enough natural gas in the ground to last a century; Boone's convinced that modern drilling techniques will allow us to find enough for several centuries.

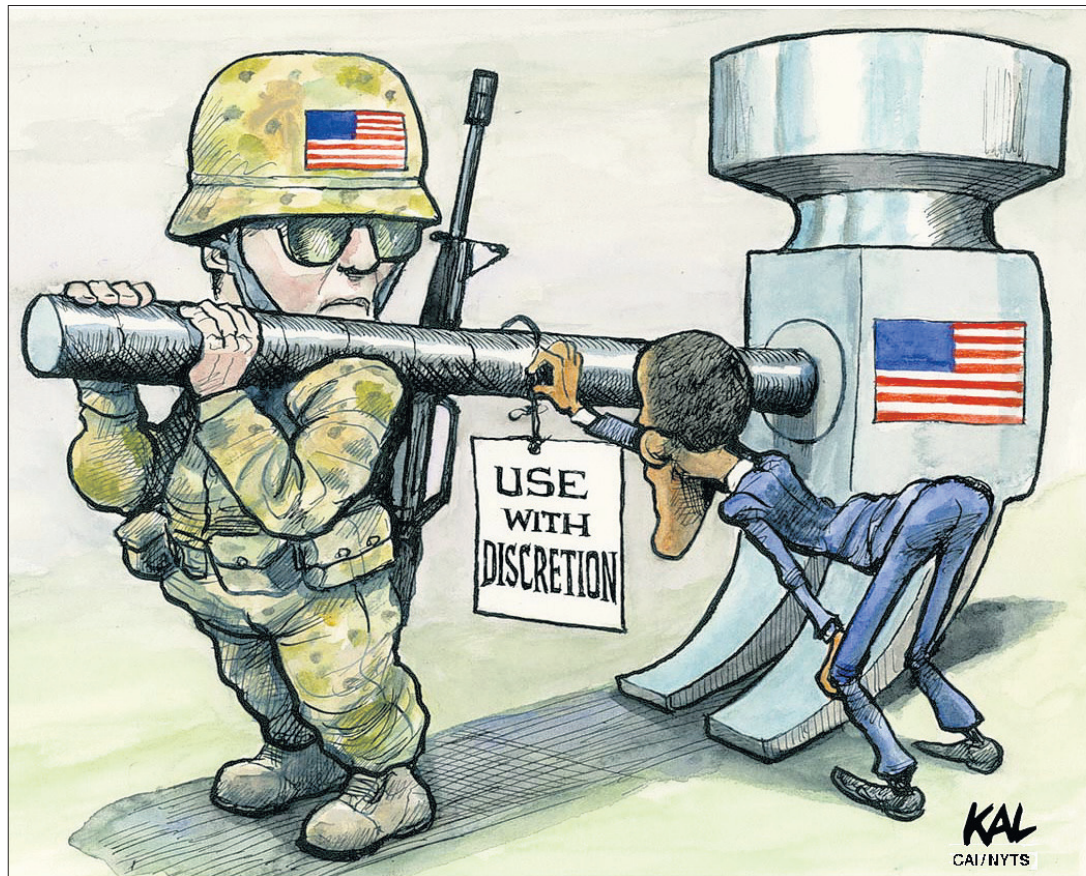
His critics like to point out that anything that boosts natural gas will put money in his pocket. But so what? He's already plenty rich, and, he says, “I'm sure not doing this for the money.” Besides, he's right.

The bill introduced last week is an offshoot of the Pickens plan, his cri de coeur for energy independence, which he put together in 2008 and has spent more than \$80 million promoting. Although Boone believes that our continued reliance on OPEC oil is dangerous, he also knows that even if you drill, baby, drill, as many Republicans want, it won't make much difference. Quite simply, America is running out of oil. The Pickens plan calls for increased use of wind, solar, nuclear, even coal. “I'm for anything that's American,” he said.

But, of course, you can't use solar or wind to power a vehicle, which is what most imported oil is used for. You can, however, use natural gas. Nor is this some pie-in-the-sky technology; there are already 12 million vehicles around the world that use either liquefied or compressed natural gas, though only 140,000 in the U.S. (They're mostly buses and trash haulers.)

The Pickens bill creates tax incentives — \$1 billion a year for five years — to encourage manufacturers to begin building heavy-duty trucks that will be powered by natural gas instead of diesel. It also gives some tax incentives to truck-stop owners who install natural gas filling stations to help create the infrastructure.

On the face of it, this seems like a pretty small goal for a guy who's got such big ideas about energy independence. Partly, Boone is being realistic. It would be politically impossible to convert cars to natural gas or to ask for gigantic tax breaks in this time of austerity. □



OBAMA DOCTRINE

Poetry for everyday life



By **DAVID BROOKS**

© 2011 New York Times

Here's a clunky but unremarkable sentence that appeared in the British press before the last national election: “Britain's recovery from the worst recession in decades is gaining traction, but confused economic data and the high risk of hung Parliament could yet snuff out its momentum.”

The sentence is only worth quoting because in 28 words it contains four metaphors. Economies don't really gain traction, like a tractor. Momentum doesn't literally get snuffed out, like a cigarette. We just use those metaphors, without even thinking about it, as a way to capture what is going on.

In his fine new book, “I Is an Other,” James Geary reports on linguistic research suggesting that people use a metaphor

every 10 to 25 words. Metaphors are not rhetorical frills at the edge of how we think, Geary writes. They are at the very heart of it.

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, two of the leading researchers in this field, have pointed out that we often use food metaphors to describe the world of ideas. We devour a book, try to digest raw facts and attempt to regurgitate other people's ideas, even though they might be half-baked.

When talking about relationships, we often use health metaphors. A friend might be involved in a sick relationship. Another might have a healthy marriage.

When talking about argument, we use war metaphors. When talking about time, we often use money metaphors. But when talking about money, we rely on liquid metaphors. We dip into savings, sponge off friends or skim funds off the top. Even the job title stockbroker derives from the French word *brocheur*, the tavern worker who tapped the kegs of beer to get the liquidity flowing.

The psychologist Michael Morris points out that when the stock market is going up, we tend to use agent metaphors, implying the market is a living thing with clear intentions.

We say the market climbs or soars or fights its way upward. When the market goes down, on the other hand, we use object metaphors, implying it is inanimate. The market falls, plummets or slides.

Most of us, when asked to stop and think about it, are by now aware of the pervasiveness of metaphorical thinking. But in the normal rush of events, we often see straight through metaphors, unaware of how they refract perceptions. So it's probably important to pause once a month or so to pierce the illusion that we see the world directly. It's good to pause to appreciate how flexible and tenuous our grip on reality actually is.

Metaphors help compensate for our natural weaknesses. Most of us are not very good at thinking about abstractions or spiritual states, so we rely on concrete or spatial metaphors to (imperfectly) do the job. A lifetime is pictured as a journey across a landscape. A person who is sad is down in the dumps, while a happy fellow is riding high.

Most of us are not good at understanding new things, so we grasp them imperfectly by relating them metaphorically to things that already exist. the metaphor of separateness as a path to sanctification. □



Woods impressed with the growth of golf in China

U.S. golfer Tiger Woods attends a news conference as part of his Asian tour at Mission Hill Dongguan club house, in Dongguan, southern China's Guangdong province, Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Woods will visit Beijing and Seoul during the tour.

(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Serena back on court



Serena Williams

Associated Press

Serena Williams grabbed her racket and got out on a tennis court Tuesday, which she said was her "first day back" after a series of health problems, including blood clots in her lung.

The 13-time Grand Slam singles champion and former No. 1-ranked player has not played an official match since she won the title at Wimbledon in July.

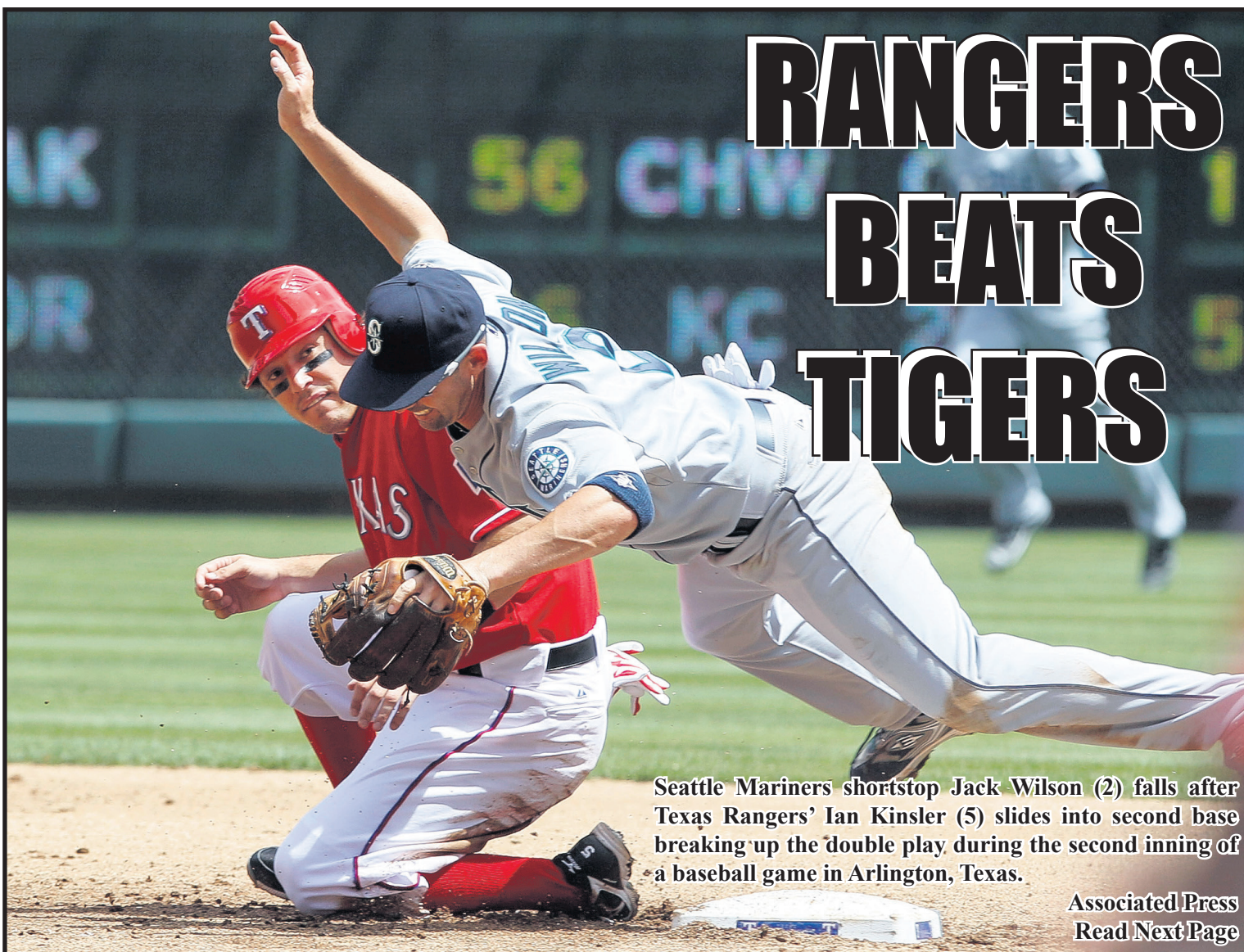
On Tuesday, Williams tweeted: "Cool news guys stay tuned.. Ill update u with a pic.. U ready??"

Then, a little later, she tweeted again: "Look who I spotted on the court. Her first day back..." That posting came with a link to a photo of Williams in a neon pink bodysuit, standing at the baseline and midway through her service motion with a racket in her right hand.

Her agent, Jill Smoller, confirmed Williams put in some work Tuesday.

"She was out hitting some balls today. Taking it day by day depending on how she's feeling and was very happy to be back on the court." □

RANGERS BEATS TIGERS



Seattle Mariners shortstop Jack Wilson (2) falls after Texas Rangers' Ian Kinsler (5) slides into second base breaking up the double play during the second inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press
Read Next Page



Red Wings F Zetterberg out for at least Game 1

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit Red Wings leading scorer Henrik Zetterberg says he's out for at least Game 1 of the NHL playoffs against the Phoenix Coyotes.

The Swede arrived at Joe Louis Arena on Tuesday morning with a

Minnesota Wild center Mikko Koivu (9), of Finland, tries to gain position as Detroit Red Wings left wing Johan Franzen (93), of Sweden, defends and Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard, right, looks on in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Detroit

Associated Press

brace on his left knee and got a ride to the dressing room on the back of a cart. Detroit opens the playoffs Wednesday at home.

Zetterberg says he doesn't know if he'll play in Game 2 on Saturday. He was injured last Wednesday when he was checked by Bryan Allen in the 3-0 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes.

He missed the last two games of the regular season and finished with 80 points. That's 18 more than any teammate after averaging about 70 points the previous two years. □

Rangers beat slumping Martinez and Tigers 2-0



Arizona Diamondbacks left fielder Willie Bloomquist leaps for but can only watch as a ball hit for a home run by St. Louis Cardinals' Lance Berkman lands in the crowd in the seventh inning of an MLB baseball game Monday, April 11, 2011, in Phoenix.

(AP Photo/Paul Connors)

DETROIT (AP) — Alexi Ogando outpitched Justin Verlander before injuring his finger in the Texas Rangers' 2-0 win over Detroit on Monday.

The AL champions improved to nine wins from 10 games, the top record in the majors and matching the best 10-game start in team history.

Rangers closer Neftali Feliz retired the first two batters in the ninth inning before Ryan Raburn doubled. The Rangers then intentionally walked Miguel Cabrera, bringing Victor Martinez to the plate as the potential winning run. Martinez grounded out on a 2-0 pitch to end it.

Michael Young and Mitch Moreland hit RBI doubles in the seventh inning as Texas equaled the start of its 1989 club.

Ogando (2-0) gave up just two hits, walked one and struck four over seven innings in his second start in the majors.

His outing was cut short by fluid under a callus on his right index finger. Ogando pitched six scoreless innings last week with a blister on the same finger.

Verlander (1-1) lost despite pitching a six-hitter. He also struck out four and walked one in his 119-pitch performance.

Indians 4, Angels 0

At Anaheim, California, Mitch Talbot took a shutout into the ninth inning, and Asdrubal Cabrera and Matt LaPorta homered to lead Cleveland to its eighth straight win.

The winning streak is Cleveland's longest since a 10-game stretch in August 2008. The Indians, coming off a sweep at Seattle, have started out 4-0 on the road for the first time since 1998

(6-0). Their 8-2 start overall is their best since 2002, when they opened 12-1.

Talbot (1-0) came within three outs of his first big-league shutout, allowing five hits and two walks while striking out four. He was lifted after Bobby Abreu led off the ninth with a double on Talbot's 112th pitch.

Vinnie Pestano retired the final three batters in order.

Angels starter Tyler Chatwood (0-1) gave up four runs, four hits and four walks in five innings in his major league debut.

Rays 16, Red Sox 5

At Boston, Sam Fuld went 4 for 6 with a two-run homer, drove in three runs and fell a single shy of the cycle to lead Tampa Bay.

Johnny Damon had three hits, including a solo homer, and three RBIs, and John Jaso and Reid Brignac also drove in three runs apiece for the Rays. Jeremy Hellickson (1-1) gave up two runs, five hits, walked five and struck out one in 5 1-3 innings to earn the win.

Jacoby Ellsbury hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, Adrian Gonzalez had a run-scoring triple and Carl Crawford went 2 for 5 against his former team to raise his average to .163.

Daisuke Matsuzaka (0-2) lasted just two-plus innings, giving up seven runs on eight hits. Tampa Bay sent 10 batters to the plate in the second, scoring six runs on three consecutive two-run hits after the Japanese right-hander loaded the bases with no outs.

Athletics 2, White Sox 1, 10 innings

At Chicago, Kurt Suzuki hit a go-ahead home run in the 10th inning as Oakland capitalized on Juan Pierre's dropped fly ball in the ninth to tie it. □

Tiger says swing change starting to pay off

DONGGUAN, China (AP) — A new swing and some renewed enthusiasm brought back the old Tiger Woods at last week's Masters. The former top-ranked golfer, who finished in a tie for fourth place Sunday at Augusta National, was already back at work on Tuesday, promoting the game of the golf and his sponsors on a trip to China. "I hit the ball really well on the weekend and made some shots — those are shots I know I can hit. That was fun and exciting," Woods said at the Mission Hills Dongguan clubhouse near the southern Chinese city Shenzhen. "It's really starting to feel pretty good. This week was a pretty good week." The 14-time major champion hasn't won a title since returning from a five-month break after revelations of marital infidelity last year. But at the Masters, he made a strong run with four birdies and an eagle on the front nine of the final round before faltering on the back.

But while kicking off an Asian promotional tour, Woods credited swing coach Sean Foley, who started working with the American star at last year's PGA Championship. "I played well and unfortunately just came up a little short on the back nine. But it was a fun front nine on Sunday. That was fun. Had a blast," Woods said. "It was fun being in the mix. Unfortunately didn't get it done." Woods hasn't won a tournament since his return last year. "When I was 25, I was on tour and having a pretty good run out there at the time, won a few tournaments right about that age," Woods said. "And at 35, I haven't won a thing." But despite being happy with the overhaul of his driving, Woods told fans during an afternoon clinic that his putting was lacking, adding that his next goal is to fine-tune his short game. Woods' off-the-course troubles don't appear to have diminished

his popularity in China. Hundreds of fans lined the fairway at the 18th hole of the course as Woods wrapped up his four-hole demonstration, cheering loudly when he made a good shot. Woods wore a wireless microphone so spectators could listen in as he plotted his strategy for each shot. He offered words of encouragement to five Chinese juniors, who played the final hole with him. Woods was particularly impressed with a 13-year-old junior who teed off after he did. Asked how far he drove when he was 13, Woods said, "not that far." "Their futures are very bright," Woods said. "It will be fun to watch their careers develop over the years." Earlier Tuesday, Woods said he was impressed with the growth of golf in China, where the sport is booming, and has predicted Chinese golfers will break into the top 50 in the world. □



U.S. golfer Tiger Woods high-fives with a young golfer during a golf clinic as part of his Asian tour in Mission Hill Dongguan club house, in southern China's Guangdong province, Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Tiger Woods will also visit Beijing and Seoul in South Korea during the tour.

Associated Press

Erik Morales Biggest Winner?



Marcos Maidana, of Argentina, right, punches Erik Morales, of Mexico during their WBA interim junior welterweight championship boxing match

Associated Press

BIGGEST WINNER

Erik Morales: Biggest Winner? For a fighter who lost? Of course. Morales lost a majority decision to Maidana on Saturday night in Las Vegas on pay-per-view television but realized perhaps a more-important objective: He proved — much to our shock — that he remains an elite boxer worthy of big fights. And he did it with one eye. He almost beat one of the most-vicious warriors in the world even though his right eye was closed in the first round. Astonishing. No one ever questioned Morales' heart. We just didn't believe he had the tools to compete on an elite level at this point of his career. He told us we were wrong. We didn't believe him. He told us he could compete with a fighter of limited boxing skills. We didn't believe him. He told us that he improved in each of his three fights since his return to boxing. We didn't believe him. We wrote him off and he almost pulled off a monumental upset, giving us one more fight-of-the-year candidate in the process. Are you kidding? We'll believe him from now on. Morales has had many great moments in the ring. This one is up there with the best of them.

MOST WRONG

The "experts:" Don't be too hard on us. We were only looking at the facts. Morales was knocked out twice by Manny Pacquiao and then lost to capable but limited David Diaz, after which Morales re-

tired. No one said it was the wrong decision. Then, 2½ years later, he resumed his career in a weight class that seemed too heavy for him. He defeated three journeymen in his comeback but didn't look like the Erik Morales we knew. Then he decided to fight Maidana, one of the true beasts in the sport. Crazy, we thought. Crazy like a fox. The wily old veteran knew exactly what he was doing. He knew that Maidana's lack of world-class hand speed and defensive liabilities were weaknesses he could exploit, which is why he chose the Argentine as his opponent. He knew he could make a big statement even if the rest of us didn't see it coming. The future Hall of Famer fooled us all. And we're grateful that he did. □

Federer routs Kohlschreiber at Monte Carlo Masters

MONACO (AP) — Roger Federer started his clay-court season on Tuesday by dispatching Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-2, 6-1 with precise shot-making in the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters.

The Swiss star, seeded second after Novak Djokovic's withdrawal, slammed forehand winners and performed exquisite drop shots and lobs on the run that few other players can make look so easy.

"Clearly a good start for me into the clay-court season," Federer said.

"I was able to do all the things I was hoping to. I was consistent; consistently dangerous, too. I felt well in the offense, and in the defense I was fine." He outplayed Kohlschreiber from the start, breaking his serve to begin both sets and wrapping up the win in only 50 minutes. Kohlschreiber's dejected body language showed he knew it was all over after only a handful of games.

Federer, who has lost to top-ranked Rafael Nadal in the Monte Carlo final from 2006 to 2008, had Kohlschreiber scampering helplessly around center court with a mixture of shots that were beyond the German's reach.

"I managed to vary the game well and not make too many



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after defeating Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco

Associated Press

mistakes," said Federer, whose only title win this year was at the Qatar Open in January.

The 16-time Grand Slam champion broke Kohlschreiber twice in each set, saved the only break point he faced with an ace, and sealed victory with his fifth ace of the match to improve to 6-0 against the German.

Federer, who trained with Kohlschreiber last summer, has only ever lost one set to him — in a tiebreaker at Wimbledon two years ago.

"I think he can play a lot better than he did today," Federer said. "Sometimes there are opponents it works really

well against. Others, you realize you have to work the point differently.

I know how good Philipp is and how heavy his ball actually is. I was actually quite surprised I was having no problems with his serve."

Federer clinched the opening set when Kohlschreiber sent a forehand long. Against the backdrop of the glittering Mediterranean sea, his play continued to sparkle in the second set.

He hit a lob on the run from the back of the court, then sprinted to the net to retrieve the return and flick a winner that wrong-footed Kohlschreiber in the sixth game. □

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Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

Kroenke pledges 'new success' after Arsenal buyout

LONDON (AP) — American sports tycoon Stan Kroenke vowed Monday to turn Arsenal back into trophy winners after securing a controlling stake that clears the way for him to become the fifth U.S. owner of a Premier League club. While the Denver-based investor said he would bring "new success" to a club in the midst of a six-year title drought, he did not accompany the pledge with a commitment to spending heavily on new players. Kroenke's stake in Arsenal will rise from 29.9 percent to 62.89 percent after agreeing to buy shares from fellow directors including Danny Fiszman and Nina Bracewell-Smith. The deal values the club at 731 million pounds (\$1.2 billion). By going over the 30 percent threshold, the 63-year-old Kroenke is obliged to mount a full takeover bid by making a mandatory cash offer for the remaining shares. "We are excited about the opportunity to increase our involvement with and commitment to Arsenal,"

"will not be funded by way of any debt finance."

Kroenke said in a statement to London's Plus Market. "Arsenal is a fantastic club with a special history and tradition and a wonderful manager in Arsene Wenger. We intend to build on this rich heritage and take the club to new success." Success has been lacking at Arsenal since the London club won the FA Cup in 2005 and Premier League a year earlier. The 13-time English champions are seven points behind Manchester United with seven matches remaining of the current title race but with a game in hand over the leaders. "It's the end of an era but it's also the beginning of an era," Arsenal chief executive Ivan Gazidis said. "I don't think we will see dramatic changes. At the same, I do think that Mr. Kroenke brings experience in the sports arena. He's got tremendous experience in the United States and also experience now over here in England." Kroenke also owns the St. Louis Rams of the NFL, the Denver Nuggets of the

NBA, the Colorado Avalanche of the NHL and the Colorado Rapids of Major League Soccer. Manchester United fell under American ownership in 2005 when Malcolm Glazer took charge, and he has been followed by compatriots John Henry at Liverpool, Randy Lerner at Aston Villa and Ellis Short at Sunderland. Chelsea, Manchester City, Fulham, Blackburn and Birmingham are also owned by foreigners. Leveraged takeovers at Liverpool by Tom Hicks and George Gillett Jr., who were forced to sell the club to Henry's ownership group last year, and the Glazer family at Manchester United enraged fans by loading their teams with new debt. Kroenke insisted on Monday that his takeover "will not be funded by way of any debt finance." Kroenke has also pledged to "support and adhere to the self-sustaining business model" at Arsenal, which has a tradition of being well-run, avoiding big transfer fees and relying on talent developed through its youth teams. Wenger has had time to get to know Kroenke, who



American businessman Stan Kroenke, of the Kroenke group, at the annual Allen & Co. Media summit in Sun Valley, Idaho. Kroenke has agreed to a full takeover of Arsenal that values the British Premier League soccer club at 731 million pounds (\$1.2 billion) and should end the long-running uncertainty about its ownership. Kroenke has agreed to increase his holding from 29.9 percent to 62.89 percent by acquiring shares from fellow directors Danny Fiszman and Nina Bracewell-Smith, Arsenal Holdings Associated Press

has been steadily increasing his holding in Arsenal since buying a 9.99 percent stake

in April 2007 and joining the board of directors within 18 months.

"I have worked with Stan Kroenke at board meetings over the past couple of years and I believe he has the best interests of Arsenal at heart," Wenger said. "He understands the club's heritage and traditions and our ambition to run the club in a way which protects our long-term future." □

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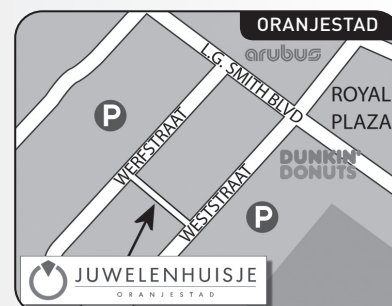
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NCAA'S Double Standard



By **JOE NOCERA**

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I don't know about you, but I had a hard time stomaching the sight of Jim Calhoun holding the championship trophy after last week's final game of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Not because it was a lousy game (though it was), but because Calhoun, the pugnacious coach of the University of Connecticut "program" — as the big-money Division I teams are called — shouldn't have been

allowed anywhere near the gym. Just weeks earlier, the NCAA had sanctioned him for "failing to create an atmosphere of compliance" with its recruiting rules. To put it more bluntly: UConn cheated. Among the punishments meted out was a three-game suspension for Calhoun.

But this is the NCAA we're talking about, an organization that bends over backward to accommodate big-time basketball schools like Connecticut that drive TV ratings, and marquee coaches like Calhoun, who, with his \$2.3 million salary, is the highest-paid state employee in Connecticut. March Madness was right around the corner, so Calhoun's suspension was (of course!) deferred until next season, allowing him to coach the team during the tournament. One of his own players described the school's penalties as "a slap on the wrist."

Shortly after Calhoun was handed his punishment, another member of an NCAA Division I program was also suspended — in his case, for

six games. But he wasn't a multimillionaire coach. Rather, he was 19-year-old Perry Jones III, a talented, 6-foot-11, African-American freshman at Baylor University who, coincidentally, was the subject of a terrific profile by Michael Sokolove in The New York Times Magazine a month ago. Was Jones allowed to delay his suspension? Surely you jest. The NCAA suspended him literally hours before the team's conference tournament. Without Jones, Baylor lost big. That Baylor's season ended on such a sour note is hardly the tragedy here, of course. What is infuriating are the different ways Jones and Calhoun were treated, especially when you look at what they did. In trying

One of his own players described the school's penalties as "a slap on the wrist."

to land a prized recruit, Calhoun and UConn broke the rules egregiously and repeatedly. Jones' main crime was that he is poor.

Jones was in 10th grade when he supposedly broke the NCAA's rules.

(That's right. You can break NCAA rules years before you become part of the NCAA.) His mother, a cafeteria worker, has a heart condition so serious that she will likely need a transplant. Sometimes she's confined to a wheelchair, causing her to miss work. During one such period, she got behind on her rent.

Three times, she asked Jones' AAU coach, whom she'd known for years, to lend her \$1,200 to pay the rent. Each time, she repaid the loan as soon as she got her paycheck. That, believe it or not, is Jones' transgression.

Jones says he had no idea his mother was borrowing money to pay the rent, which is completely believable. If you needed a short-term loan to keep from getting evicted, would you tell your teenage son? Yet the NCAA says that because she got the money from the coach, Jones was getting a benefit not available to nonathletes.

(Jones' second transgression was going to a preseason Dallas Cowboys game with that same coach. □)

Kings finale feels like farewell for Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Some will cry. Others will protest. There will be signs of support and banners expressing anger. And in the end, no matter the score, everyone will say goodbye. Maybe for the last time.

The deadline so many fans here have dreaded finally arrives Wednesday night when the Kings host the rival Los Angeles Lakers in what might be the final game in Sacramento.

With the Kings mulling a move to Anaheim, "Fan Appreciation Night" suddenly feels like farewell.

"It's going to be a basketball funeral," said Robert Crashner, a Kings season-ticket holder for almost a decade. "Unless a miracle happens, I guess it's going to be over."

The outlook in California's capital city certainly seems gloomy.

Kings fans, most already talking about their team in the past tense, are still organizing for what will surely be an exhausting regular-season finale. Social-networking efforts have sprouted up and a sellout crowd is expected, with everything from a sit-in afterward to a boycott beforehand among the possibilities planned.

Signs reading "Save Our Kings" and billboards across town plastered "It's Not Over" have been the widespread themes thus far, and there will surely be countless posters — maybe even a few cowbells — at the finale.

For most, the Lakers game offers a chance to vent any feelings — frustration, anger, joy, whatever — one last time. "It's a Hail Mary pass, it's the bottom of the ninth, it's the 15th round, whatever sports analogy you want to use," said Carmichael Dave, a Sacramento sports-talk host who helped form the group "Here We Build," a grass roots initiative aimed at raising funds for a new arena. "We're going down with a fight."

Hours after the final buzzer sounds, the NBA Board of Governors will begin meeting a continent away in New York to start deciding Sacramento's basketball fate.



Connecticut's Kemba Walker looks on during a news conference in Storrs, Conn., Tuesday, April 12, 2011, where he announced his intentions to enter the 2011 NBA draft.

Associated Press

Kings owners Joe and Gavin Maloof, who are not expected to attend the season finale, are scheduled to make a pitch to fellow owners to move the franchise to Anaheim next season, and Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson — a former NBA All-Star — also will attend the meeting to plead the city's case to keep the

franchise. The Maloofs have until Monday to officially file for permission to relocate, and a vote would likely come within weeks of that request. All that's required is approval by a simple majority of the owners, and no NBA team has ever been denied permission to move in the 27 years under Commissioner David Stern. □



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Fertility, Naturally

Fecundity or being able to have children has always been an issue. Virtually all cultures have had a means of venerating the Supreme Being as a Divine Female that could be asked to help with fertility problems. Whether you already have child and would like more children or hope to have a family in the future, the physical and psychological health of both partners as well as lifestyle can greatly affect your chances of getting pregnant and having a healthy baby.

Unfortunately, the U.S. National Survey of Family Growth reported that impaired fecundity rose significantly between 1982 and 1995, the biggest increase in women under 25. Similar findings from Europe show that 40 percent of men entering the draft in Denmark have low sperm count levels associated with infertility.

If you're under 35 and have been trying to get pregnant for less than a year (or fewer than six months if you're over 35), you have no reason to be concerned yet. To make sure you're doing all you can to enhance your chances of getting pregnant come in for a consultation. If you've had frequent unprotected sex for more than a year (six months if you're over 35) without conceiving, you or your partner may have a condition that's interfering with your chances of conceiving. A doctor can diagnose a fertility problem.

Researchers estimate that as many as one in ten cou-

ples have trouble getting pregnant and this is expected to rise. If you're having trouble, that doesn't mean you'll never have children. Many couples need extra time or medical intervention to get pregnant. We have found many of our fecundity (fertility/pregnancy) patients have a health imbalance, emotional stress or simply need sexual education. Our couples have had success using a combination of detoxification, clinical nutrition, couples counseling and Traditional Chinese Medical (TCM) therapies that we offer in our clinic. We have found that by supporting and balancing both partners, we can enhance the positive outcomes.

Women tend to have fertility problems when they have a history of: endometriosis, uterine fibroids, pelvic inflammatory disease, blocked Fallopian tubes from a previous infection or surgery, or chronic illness such as diabetes, cancer, or thyroid disease. Sexually transmitted disease (STD's) can adversely affect chances of getting pregnant. Women who have painful or irregular periods or excessive facial and body hair have hormonal imbalances impacting fecundity. Finally, women can have pain during intercourse or be allergic to their partner's sperm.

Men can have problems if they have a history of: infection with the mumps virus after puberty, diabetes, cancer, thyroid disease, undescended testicles, testicular tumors, cysts or cancer, or varicoceles (varicose veins in the scrotum.) Heat kills

sperm, so tight underwear, hot tub, saunas, and frequent long-distance bike rides can greatly reduce your sperm count. In both we want to make sure that neither smokes tobacco nor marijuana nor uses alcohol to excess. Studies show that under or overweight couples have a harder time getting pregnant and having a healthy pregnancy.

Reports show that men working with pesticides have higher rates of infertility. Women, whose mother's were exposed to the pesticide, DDT needed increased time to get pregnant. Another fertility and health concern is a chemical used plastics and the lining of cans, bisphenol A (BPA). The latest studies show that men who carry cell phones in pants pocket or clipped to their belts may be exposing their testicles to damaging radiofrequency electromagnetic waves according to Ashok Agarwal, PhD, director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine at the Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute in Cleveland.

Since chemicals, pesticides and cell phones are part of modern life, precautionary methods like using protection and minimizing use and exposure may help. Choose glass over plastic, use natural house cleaners, organic body products and non-toxic garden products.

Besides, lifestyle changes, to increase chance of pregnancy, the woman can keep track of her basal body temperature daily and check for changes in cervical mucus to determine her ovulation cycle. New, accurate home fertility scopes

are available that can eliminate urine testing and daily charting. A small, easy, reusable microscope, available in pharmacies and through gynecologists can accurately show your ovulation (fertility) cycle with a drop of saliva. When you know your fertile days, planning is easier.

I recommend the man-on-top position which allows for the deepest penetration and places sperm closer to egg. When a woman has an orgasm the mouth of the womb extends to the vaginal floor and picks up the sperm. I recommend woman have an orgasm after their partner. Lastly, stress can affect appetite, emotions, and the hormones required to release the eggs. If you're stressed out, you may ovulate later or not at all. As many couples trying to get pregnant know, feeling anxious and overwhelmed can kill your sex drive.

In early pregnancy a woman's body produces an elevated level of hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin). About 14 days after fertilization (the time you would expect your period) the amount of HCG has increased so that, some home pregnancy tests may be able to detect the hormone in your urine and give you a positive result. Most home pregnancy tests are not sensitive enough to guarantee you an accurate result in a couple of days of conceiving. You're more likely to get an accurate result if you wait until a week after your expected period before testing.

Get the Point! If you really want to increase your chances



By: Dr. Carlos Viana
Exclusive to Aruba Today

of getting pregnant and having a healthy baby, before you try artificial methods, come in for a natural fecundity workup. Being healthy before pregnancy, gives your baby a healthy start. We're here to answer your questions. Meanwhile a small offering to a fecundity deity won't hurt.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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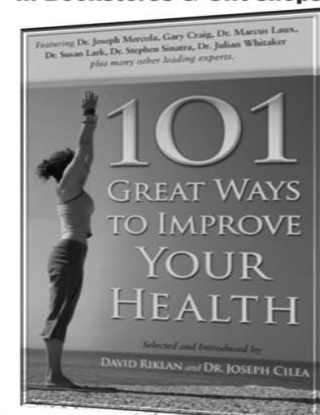
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Medvedev:

Space will remain a key Russian priority



Rocket engineer Oleg Ivanovsky, right, leads Yuri Gagarin, center, to the Vostok spacecraft before the launch from what will later become known as the Baikonur cosmodrome.

By V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia must preserve its pre-eminence in

space, President Dmitry Medvedev declared Tuesday on the 50th anniversary of the first human spaceflight by

cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

The statement followed warnings by another cosmonaut that Russia risks losing its edge in space research by relying solely on Soviet-era achievements and doing little to develop new space technologies.

Gagarin's 108-minute mission on April 12, 1961, remains a source of great national pride, and Russia marked the day with fanfare resembling Soviet-era celebrations.

Schools had special lessons dedicated to Gagarin, billboards carried his smiling face and national television channels broadcast a flow of movies and documentaries about the flight.

"We were the first to fly to space and have had a great number of achievements, and we mustn't lose our advantage," Medvedev said during a visit to Mission Control outside Moscow.

On Monday, Svetlana Savitskaya, who flew space missions in 1982 and 1984 and became the first woman to make a spacewalk, harshly criticized the Kremlin for paying little attention to space research after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

"There's nothing new to be proud of in the last 20 years," said Savitskaya, a member of Russian parliament from the Communist Party. □



A Cisco Systems' Flip Video camera is displayed at Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif. Cisco Systems Inc. is exiting parts of its consumer businesses, with plans to shut its Flip video camera business.

Cisco plans to shut its Flip camcorder business

By PETER SVENSSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cisco Systems Inc., the world's largest maker of computer networking gear, on Tuesday said it's killing its Flip Video camcorder business as part of a reversal of years of efforts at diversifying into consumer products.

The about-face comes after several quarters of disappointing results and challenges in its core businesses. Analysts say the company has been trying to do too many different things.

A week ago, CEO John Chambers acknowledged the criticism, sending employees a memo vowing to take "bold steps" to narrow the company's focus. □

Apple manufacturer Foxconn considers Brazil plant

By Ray Colitt
Associated Press

BEIJING/SAO PAULO — iPhone maker Foxconn Technology Group is considering investing \$12 billion in Brazil, a move that could benefit clients such as Apple Inc looking to break into the world's No. 8 economy.

Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff said on Tuesday her government is studying Foxconn's investment plan, the latest move by the manufacturer to expand its manufacturing operations beyond the booming southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. Rising labor costs have forced many companies to set up operations in cheaper parts of China, but a Foxconn move into Brazil would help tech companies sidestep hefty import tariffs on products they sell in the South American country. Other clients of Foxconn include Hewlett Packard and Dell.

Tech companies are keen to sell to Brazilian consumers hungry for high-end electronics, but gadgets are often priced out of the market because of high production costs and import tariffs. Apple's cheapest iPad, for example, retails for about \$860 in Brazil, versus \$400 in the United States. □



Foxconn workers walk on a footbridge outside a Foxconn factory building in the township of Longhua, in southern Guangdong province.

Nokia launches new Symbian smartphones

By MATTI HUUHTANEN
Associated Press

HELSINKI — Nokia Corp. on Tuesday launched its first smartphones to run on the updated Symbian software with new icons, enhancements and a faster browser.

Nokia said the two models the E6 and X7 have longer battery life, better text input and new Ovi Maps applications with improved search and public transport routes.

The Nokia E6, with a standard QWERTY keypad and high resolution touch display, is aimed at corporate customers,

while the Nokia X7 is an entertainment-focused handset with a 4-inch (10-centimeter) display made for games.

The world's largest cellphone maker did not price the handsets.

Markets seemed unimpressed by the announcement, which comes as Nokia continues to struggle against stiff competition, especially from Apple Inc. and Research in Motion Ltd.

Nokia stock fell more than 3 percent to euro6.08 on the Helsinki Stock Exchange.

More than 200 million phones,

with 150 million more expected on the market, use Symbian technology, seen by some developers as clumsy and dated. At the end of last year, it was surpassed by Android as the world's No. 1 smart phone software.

Nokia said the new, faster Symbian software, known as Symbian Anna, will be available for previously released top models, including the N8, E7, C7 and C6-01 devices "in coming months."

In February, Nokia and Microsoft surprised the industry by announcing they were join-



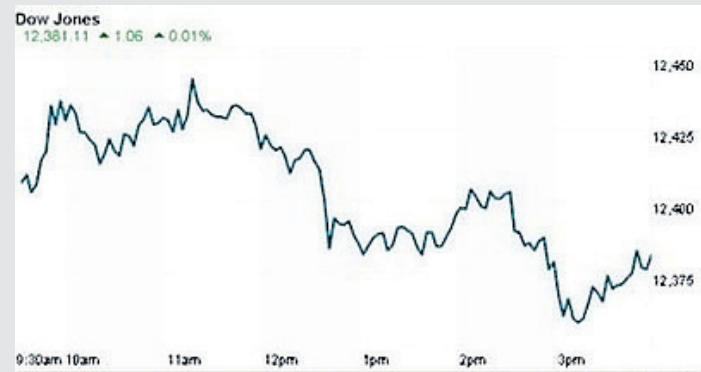
A customer talks with a sales representative at the Nokia flagship store in Helsinki.

ing forces to challenge major rivals. Nokia said it will use Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Phone software as the main platform for its smartphones

but will continue to develop and use the new Symbian software.

But they have a tough battle ahead. □

Wall St drops on oil's fall, Alcoa's revenue



The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.06 points, or 0.01 percent, at 12,381.11.

By Ryan Vlastelica
Associated Press
NEW YORK – Stock indexes slid 1 percent on Tuesday as oil prices sank and Alcoa's leaner-than-expected revenue started the earnings season on a disappointing note.

Energy stocks turned in the worst performance, with the S&P Energy Index (.GSPE) losing 3.2 percent alongside oil prices. U.S. crude futures fell 3.4 percent to \$106.18 per barrel while Brent crude dropped 2.4 percent to \$121.05. Dow component Chevron Corp (CVX.N) dropped 3.2 percent to \$104.32. Goldman Sachs shook oil markets for a second day after it called for a fall of almost \$20 in the price of Brent crude oil in coming months.

"There's growing recognition that the recovery is fragile in a lot of ways, and that we can't totally rely on demand from China, India or Brazil to keep us rising," said Randy Bateman, who helps oversee \$14.5 billion as chief investment officer of Huntington Asset Management in Columbus, Ohio. "Energy stocks are recognizing that, and investors looking to take profits are taking them there."

The International Energy Agency also said high prices could curb oil demand. U.S. crude is up about 16 percent since the start of the year. □

BP's tie-up with Russia

Rosneft deal uncertain after Sechin quits

By Tom Bergin
Associated Press
LONDON – BP's (BPL) planned \$18 billion tie-up with Russia's Rosneft (ROSN.MM) was looking even more uncertain after chief backer Igor Sechin stood down as Rosneft chairman, and sources said BP faced a new legal challenge. Deputy Prime Minister Sechin resigned his position after President Dmitry Medvedev ordered the removal of ministers from the boards of state companies as part of his campaign to separate politics and business.

BP's tie-up with state-controlled Rosneft (ROSN.MM) is already blocked by a court injunction secured by BP's Russian partners in its TNK-BP (TNBP.MM) venture, and analysts said Sechin's departure could reduce any political pressure on the oligarchs to drop their opposition. "Now the Rosneft chairman has quit, it makes it even less likely the deal will go through," said Dougie Youngson, an oil analyst at Arbuthnot. □



Business travel spending to grow 7%



A view of the city skyline from the rooftop lounge at Ink 48, a boutique hotel, in New York. In an attempt to diversify the attractiveness to travelers of hotel chains that may be mundane, big hotels are planning to open "boutique hotels" to enhance the travelers experience.

(Benjamin Norman/The New York Times)

NEW YORK, (AP) -- Business travelers are forecast to spend \$245.8 billion this year, up nearly 7 percent from 2010, thanks to improving economic conditions and increasing corporate confidence, an industry trade group said Tuesday. That prediction is \$6.5 billion better than an outlook released in January, and growth is expected to continue at least through 2012.

"These are very heartening signs. Business travel spending is coming back at robust levels, indicating the shape of things to come — namely more travelers on the road, an improving economy and a positive environment for continued job growth," Michael W. McCormick, executive director of the Global Business Travel Association said in a statement.

Spending picked up at the end of 2010, with business travelers taking 113.6 million trips during the fourth quarter. They spent \$60.6 billion, up more than 12 percent from the same period in 2009. For the first quarter of 2011, preliminary numbers show that travelers spent \$60.2 billion, up 4 percent from the year before. Half of this year's spending growth will come from more expensive airfare, hotels, car rentals and meals. The average business trip in 2010 cost \$533, according to the group. For 2011, it is expected to climb 3.4 percent to \$551. Pricier international travel is also growing faster than domestic trips.

While the industry is concerned about the higher price of oil, the association said it would not derail travel. If oil hits \$150 a barrel, the group expects business travelers to spend \$5.8 billion, or 1.5 percent less and make 700,000 fewer trips during 2012 and 2013. A scenario at \$200 a barrel would lead to an expected loss of \$9 billion in spending and 2.7million fewer trips but would not stop the overall growth in travel, the association said. □

By Anne Le Coz
Associated Press

LISBON – EU and IMF experts began work Tuesday with Portugal on working out the details of an 80-billion-euro bailout package which is seen locally as a painful humiliation.

The European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund experts were setting out their program for discussions on the technical aspects of the bailout, a delegation spokesman said. The spokesman said he could

not give details of the expected talks with Portuguese officials having to come to terms with the third eurozone debt bailout after Greece and Ireland last year.

These technical talks, whose findings will then go into discussions with Portugal's political leaders, will be closed to the press, Lisbon said. The debt rescue, finally agreed to after months of agonizing efforts to avoid having to call for help, is hugely controversial in Portugal where many see it as a humiliation for the country. □

Renault CEO under pressure as lieutenant quits

By Helen Massy-Beresford
Associated Press

PARIS – The departure of Renault's (RENA.PA) number two executive over a spying-turned-fraud debacle heaps pressure on Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn when the car-maker is trying to win investor support for its growth plans.

Chief Operating Officer Patrick Pelata resigned on Monday, taking the flak for an embarrassing fiasco in which Renault fired three executives on suspicion of leaking information on electric vehicles who turned out to have done nothing wrong. Pelata's departure safeguards Ghosn's high profile role as head of both Renault and Nissan. But the clumsy handling



Renault Chief Operating Officer Patrick Pelata poses before the company's first semester results in Boulogne-Billancourt, near Paris.

of the affair and its fallout also raise questions about Renault's management. "Renault's image has taken a serious hit and the whole scandal won't go away with Pelata's departure," said Christian Jimenez, a fund manager and president of Diamant Bleu Gestion in Paris. □

Gas drilling's promise rile townsfolk

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK
Associated Press

Ron Hilliard came back from church one Sunday to find hundreds of plastic \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$100 bills hanging on his fence in Flower Mound, Texas, another message from townsfolk angry at him for signing a lucrative natural gas drilling lease for his suburban Dallas property.

In Damascus, Pa., about 1,500 miles away, drilling advocate Marian Schweighofer awoke one morning to the word "LORAX" from the Dr. Seuss book about environmental destruction spray-painted on the road near her family's 712-acre farm.

Hilliard and Schweighofer have never met, yet both are living with the nastiness and rancor

erupting in communities nationwide over the volatile issue of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. This technique used with horizontal drilling allows rich stores of gas to be extracted from once out-of-reach, dense shale formations

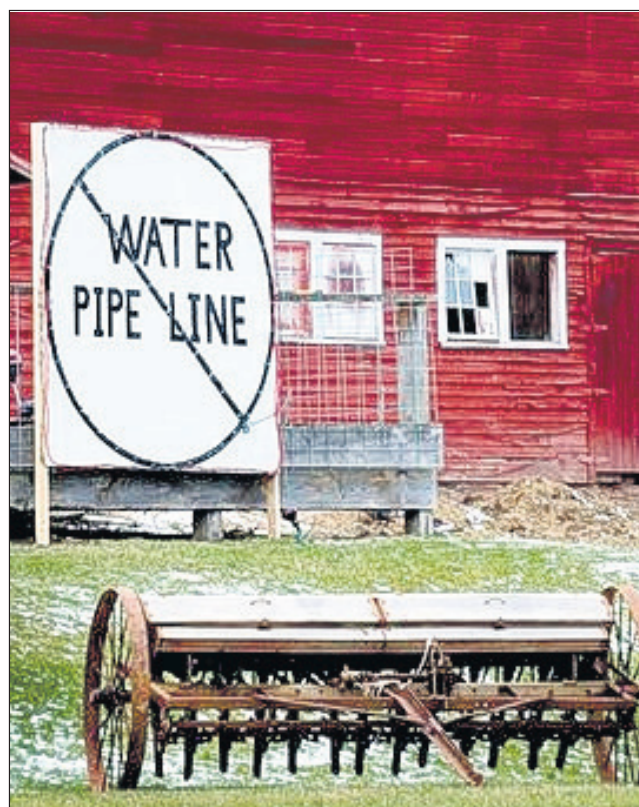
more than a mile underground. Intense drilling activity is under way in the Barnett Shale of Texas, the Marcellus Shale of Pennsylvania, and other producing shale regions around the country. As tens of thousands of Americans become energy magnates in their own backyards, tens of thousands

more worry about environmental dangers. The industry insists the process is safe, for people and the environment. This energy boom has turned neighbor against neighbor, split towns and families in bitter disputes, and touched off sharp debates over the sudden emergence

of gas companies and their 14-story drilling rigs, some rising in the middle of towns and neighborhoods.

One side touts the jobs and prosperity drilling brings, allowing businesses to flourish and down-on-their-luck farmers to hang on to their land. Gas leases have made millionaires of some property owners. Regions long struggling economically are suddenly flush. On the other side are those who either won't gain anything or fervently believe the wealth isn't worth the risk. Alarmed by toxic spills, scattered drill site explosions and tainted drinking water, they fear a reduced quality of life and declining property values. "Those who own their mineral rights are happier than a pig in mud," said Flower Mound resident Chris Tomlinson, who is making thousands of dollars a month from the gas wells drilled on his land. □

"Those who own their mineral rights are happier than a pig in mud,"



'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows:

Potter star Emma Watson feels for Kate Middleton



Actress Emma Watson as she arrives for the BAFTA Film Awards 2011, at The Royal Opera House in London. Watson will be returning to school in September after helping to promote the final two films.

By **HILARY FOX**
Associated Press

LONDON — Emma Watson has a lot of sympathy for Kate Middleton.

The royal bride-to-be is under a worldwide spotlight ahead

of her April 29 wedding to Prince William with special focus on fashion, what she'll wear for

Over the last eleven years she's grown up on screen and in public from a child actress to a film star.

Only two billion people may be watching, according to one British minister.

"Poor girl, that must be an incredible amount of pressure," Watson told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this month.

"I hope she's enjoying it. Must be intense."

Watson herself knows something about life in the spotlight. Over the last eleven years she's grown up on screen and in public from a child actress to a film star. These days who she's dating is big entertainment news, what she's wearing is dissected by fashionistas around the globe, which products she is endorsing fuels business stories.

A simple trip to the hair-

dresser to cut her long golden brown hair into an elfin crop made international headlines.

Along with co-stars Daniel Radcliffe and Rupert Grint, Watson's brought the magical books of JK Rowling to life, by playing Harry Potter's bookish but gutsy pal Hermione Granger.

And, like her character, Watson has always been studious. She enrolled to study liberal arts at Rhode Island's Brown University in 2009. But being a movie star and an Ivy League student took its toll,

and she says commuting back and forth to the U.S. left her stressed out.

Ever the perfectionist, Watson couldn't stand delivering a below-average performance, so she took some time off. How very Hermione.

"I just knew I was going to be beating myself up because I wasn't going to be able to be doing the best that I knew that I could at school or in my job," she said. "If I'd been getting B's or C's I would've been really upset." □

So she will be returning to

Travolta relishes 'untold' mob story

NEW YORK — John Travolta says his upcoming performance as an infamous New York mafia boss will offer audiences a movie they can't refuse.

The star, set to play late Gambino crime family boss John Gotti joined director Nick Cassavetes and Gotti's son John "Junior" Gotti to reveal details about the film "Gotti: Three Generations."

"This is probably the most interesting untold story in this country. What a character to approach!" Travolta told a press conference in New York, where the film will be shot later this year.

Travolta, wearing a green tie and his hair close-cropped, said that Gotti who died in prison in 2002, was an old school mafioso who lived by "a moral code."

In his long and bloody career as head of one of the historic five New York Italian mafia families, Gotti won public sympathy for his stylish appearance and wit. He was known as the "Dapper Don" and also the "Teflon Don" for his longtime ability to beat federal prosecutors in court.

"I like the glamour he had," Travolta said. "He charmed the press, he charmed his family."

The dark side, Travolta said, included "the paranoia, the fear, the putting the family at risk."

To research the part, Travolta plans to study as much original video footage as possible and to



US actor John Travolta, seen here addressing a press conference in New York, says his upcoming performance as an infamous New York mafia boss will offer audiences a movie they can't refuse.

"understand how a syndicate like this works." Pointing into the hotel room where journalists crammed in with dozens of Gotti family members and associates, Travolta said "there's a plethora of knowledge here that I tap."

John "Junior," who himself has beaten four federal prosecutions on racketeering, murder and mob charges, said he wanted his father to be portrayed fairly.

When a reporter asked how families of people killed, injured, robbed or otherwise victimized during Gotti senior's reign would feel about the Hollywood treatment, the younger Gotti snapped: "In this script, everybody's a victim." Film reps would not reveal who is being cast to play Gotti's son. Although not as flamboyant as his father, he also sports the dapper look and turned up to the press conference in a grey suit and open-necked shirt. □

President's sister puts their mom in picture book



Maya Soetoro-Ng, left, with her daughter Suhaila Ng, 6, in their home in Honolulu. Soetoro-Ng, President Obama's sister, draws on memories of their mother, Ann Dunham, for her new picture book titled 'Ladder to the Moon'.

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Above a rooftop in Jakarta or the Indus River in Pakistan, the moon looms large in the childhood memories of Maya Soetoro-Ng, but President Obama's little sister hadn't realized how important those memories were until she was pregnant with her oldest daughter. It was then she thought about how their mother, Ann Dunham, would jostle her awake wherever they were in India or New York, England or Hawaii to head outside so they could appreciate the moon. And how grandmother and granddaughter would never meet.

Suhaila, now 6, was born a decade after Dunham died of cancer, but Soetoro-Ng has paired her and "Grandma Annie" through the moon in a picture book out this month.

The dreamily drawn book from Candlewick Press, "Ladder to the Moon," opens with little Suhaila asking her mother what her grandmother was like. "She was like the moon," her mother replies. "Full, soft and curious."

In a telephone interview from her home in Hawaii, Soetoro-Ng told The Associated Press that she thought of her mother "a lot during my pregnancy, having come across boxes full of my children's books and toys that she had saved for me. That moment was a great shuddering moment of love and longing. I really did want to somehow connect the two of them."

She and husband, Konrad Ng, chose the name Suhaila because it means "glow around the moon" in Sanskrit.

The book describes how one night, a golden ladder appears at the girl's open bedroom window with her grandmother, hair flowing down her back and silver bangles tinkling on her arms. The two climb to the moon, looking down on a world filled with sorrow, from earthquakes and tsunamis, poverty and intolerance. □

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This undated file photo provided by Sotheby's in New York shows the painting 'View of St. Petersburg' by Petr Petrovich Vereshchagin.

In New York City

Baryshnikov-owned Russian painting sells

NEW YORK – A 19th century painting of St. Petersburg that Mikhail Baryshnikov purchased decades ago, and depicting the Russian city he loved, was auctioned Tuesday for \$746,500 to benefit the famous dancer's New York City performing arts center. The proceeds from the Sotheby's sale will go toward new programming

"That's much more important than a look back and being nostalgic about the past," he said.

at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. A German private collector placed the winning bid by telephone for "View of St. Petersburg" by Petr Petrovich Vereshchagin. The pre-sale estimate for the cityscape was \$300,000 to \$500,000. Baryshnikov recently donated the painting to the center's foundation so it could sell it to raise money to develop new programming from theater directors, musicians and choreographers. Baryshnikov serves as artistic director of the center that he founded in 2005 as a "creative laboratory" and performance space for multidisciplinary artists from around the world. It houses four studios, a studio theater and the 232-seat Jerome Robbins Theater in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen, offering performances in chamber music,

dance, theater and visual arts and film screenings. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Baryshnikov said he purchased the painting

at a Helsinki gallery around 1978. While it held sentimental value because he "spent the best of my youth" in St. Petersburg, he felt the money from the sale could be used to produce new art at his center. "That's much more important than a look back and being nostalgic about the past," he said. Baryshnikov said his nonprofit arts center did not yet have an endowment and relied on donations from individual and corporations.

He has already donated hundreds of works from his extensive 19th- and 20th-century art collection to the foundation but said the Vereshchagin work was the first to be sold to benefit the organization. Eventually, Baryshnikov said he planned to donate all his artworks to the foundation. Baryshnikov called Vereshchagin's work "extraordinarily detailed and beautifully lit," offering a "very recognizable" panoramic view of St. Petersburg. □

Movie deuces:

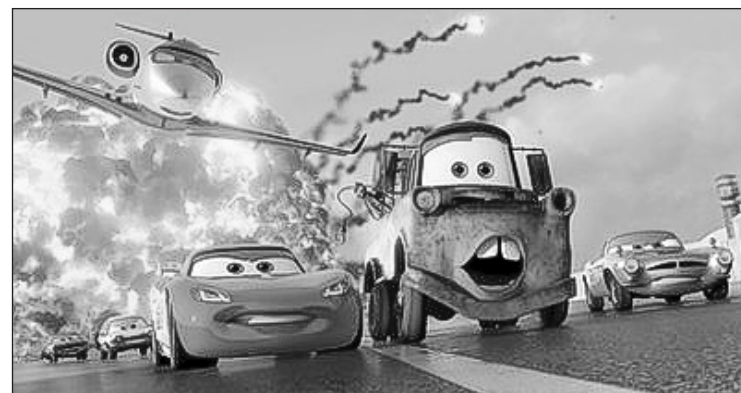
'Hangover,' 'Panda,' 'Cars' do No. 2

By DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – In real life, hangovers make us promise to be good and never do it again, until the next time. In Hollywood, fans have been anxious to do it again ever since they walked out of the surprise comedy blockbuster "The Hangover" two years ago.

As the posters proclaim: the wolf pack is back, with Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis reuniting for another clueless morning after in "The Hangover Part II," which leads a big summer lineup of comedy, romance and family fun.

Two animated tales also are in follow-up mode. Jack Black, Angelina Jolie and Dustin Hoffman again lead the voice cast for the martial-arts comedy "Kung Fu Panda 2," while Michael Caine joins returning voice stars Owen Wilson and Larry the Cable Guy for the racing adventure "Cars 2." The laugh list features Kevin James' talking-animal romp "Zookeeper"; Jim Carrey's



In this film image released by Disney, characters Lightning McQueen, voiced by Owen Wilson, left, Mater, voiced by Larry the Cable Guy, and Finn McMissile, voiced by Michael Caine, right, are shown in a scene from 'Cars 2.'

family story "Mr. Popper's Penguins"; the return of beloved animated creatures with "Winnie the Pooh" and "The Smurfs"; Steve Carell's marital-crisis romance "Crazy, Stupid, Love"; and a couple of titles that say it all: Cameron Diaz's "Bad Teacher" and "Horrible Bosses," with Jason Bateman and Jennifer Aniston. There's also a rush of wedding and engagement romances: Kate Hudson and Ginnifer Goodwin's "Something Borrowed"; Kristen Wiig's "Bridesmaids"; and

the ensemble tale "Jumping the Broom," with Angela Bassett, Paula Patton and Mike Epps.

But the nuptial bash of the season is the next chapter of "The Hangover."

This time, Stu (Helms) is getting married in Thailand, where he and his buddies (Cooper, Galifianakis and Justin Bartha) aim for a quiet pre-wedding brunch to avoid repeating the mistakes they made in Las Vegas. □

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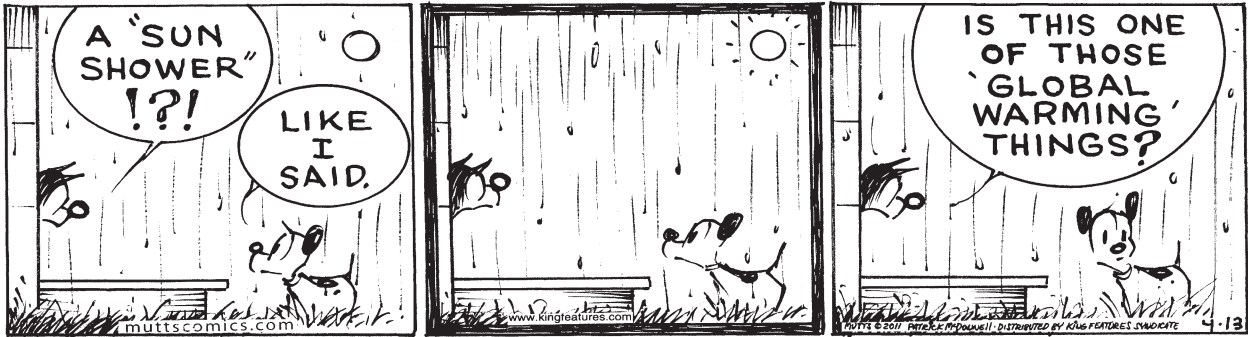
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Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



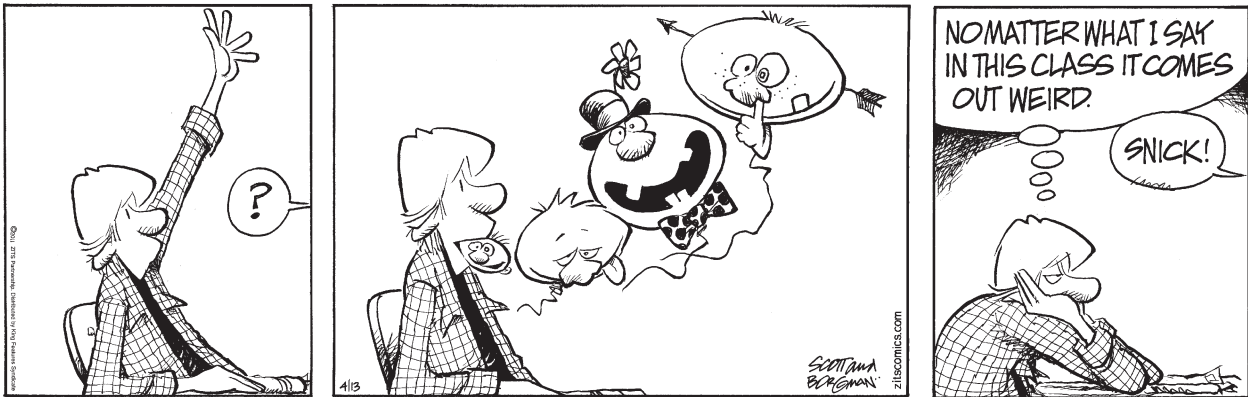
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2	8				
			4		1	3		
				7	3			
4	6	9			5	7		
7			6			9	3	
	2			1	7	6		4
	5							3
		7						8
			8	5	6	2	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	1	5	8	4	2	7	3	9
7	4	2	3	5	9	8	6	1
9	8	3	1	7	6	2	4	5
3	9	7	4	1	5	6	2	8
5	2	8	7	6	3	1	9	4
4	6	1	2	9	8	3	5	7
1	3	9	5	2	7	4	8	6
8	5	4	6	3	1	9	7	2
2	7	6	9	8	4	5	1	3

ACROSS

- 1 ___ badge; Boy Scout's award
6 USNA, for one
10 Final
14 Steer clear of
15 Lois ___; Clark Kent's love
16 Eye flirtatiously
17 At no time
18 Discontinues
19 Lowly worker
20 Idealists
22 Happenings
24 Cheerful tune
25 ___ easy; relax
26 Afternoon nap
29 Church table
30 Actress Myrna
31 Piano student's practice piece
33 ___ the way; pioneers
37 Astonished
39 Parent or grandparent
41 Let fall
42 Woman's title
44 Fragrant wood
46 Defunct airline
47 ___ out; distributed
49 ___ matter; isn't important
51 Box of
54 Male singing voice
55 Nation whose capital is Kampala
56 Priests' caps
60 Yahtzee cubes
61 Puncture
63 ___ firma; dry land
64 Word of lament
65 British noble
66 Reds & Browns
67 Information
68 Bumpkin
69 Awards for TV actors & shows
- DOWN
1 Repair
2 At any time

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16		
17						18				19		
20					21			22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28					29					
30				31		32			33		34	35
36												
37			38		39			40		41		
42				43		44			45		46	
47			48					49		50		
51	52	53						54				
55							56				57	58
59												
60					61	62			63			
64						65				66		
67						68				69		

4/13/11

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

R	U	D	E		S	T	A	R	E		W	U	S
O	P	E	N		T	I	R	E	D		A	T	O
B	O	A	R		R	E	G	I	S		L	A	M
E	N	L	A	C	E	D		N	E	I	T	H	E
					G	O	P		B	E	L	L	E
D	W	E	E	B		T	A	D		I	R	O	N
W	A	R	S		A	W	L		M	A	S	C	O
A	D	O		F	L	O	A	T	E	D		C	O
R	E	D	C	A	P		N	O	W		T	U	S
F	R	E	A	K		A	C	E		T	H	R	E
					T	E	A	S	E		H	I	E
N	E	M	E	S	I	S		L	O	C	A	T	E
O	D	O	R		S	A	B	E	R		T	O	R
O	G	L	E		L	I	O	N	S		E	G	G
N	E	E	D		E	L	A	T	E		R	O	O

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4/13/11

- 36 Quarrel
38 Moisture
40 "M*A*S*H" role
43 Blend together
45 Cake froster's flower
48 Ad intended to arouse curiosity
50 Regard highly
51 African nation
52 Nimble
53 Colorful parrot
54 Holy book
56 Sharp hook
57 Trolley car
58 Military branch
59 Be impudent
62 Fraternity letter

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WK 4, \$12,995 2BR Pool
Wk 5 \$11,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 6 \$11,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 8 \$9,000 1BR Garden*
Wk 8 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*
Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR Garden
Wk 10, \$9,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden
Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR
(Even Yr.)
Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2 BR Pool*

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Doctors don't always take own advice

NEW YORK— When doctors
step into their patients' shoes,
their treatment decisions
don't always line up with the
advice they give in their clinics,
a U.S. survey says.

Faced with hypothetical treatment
scenarios, when they
imagined themselves as the
sick person, doctors more often
chose therapies that carried a
higher risk of death but fewer
severe side effects, said the
survey, in the Archives of
Internal Medicine.

"I don't think any patient
would expect that.

If they found out, they would
raise a lot of questions," said
Peter Ubel, at Duke University,
who led the research.

"It has nothing to do with
moral.

It has everything to do with
human nature.

The doctors don't even know
they are behaving this way." In
the survey, two sets of questions
were sent to primary care
physicians around the United
States.

One set asked about different
types of hypothetical colon
cancer surgery and another
about a treatment for bird flu.

The doctors received either a
survey that asked them to assume
they were the patient, or one
that asked them about their
advice for patients. □

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Descubren narco escuela de aviación en Panamá

PANAMA (AP)- Agentes antinarcóticos desarticularon una organización que usaba como fachada una escuela de aviación para traficar cocaína, en un operativo que dejó 25 detenidos, entre los cuales hay un mexicano y cinco colombianos.

El operativo incluyó el arresto de 19 panameños y el decomiso 265 kilos de cocaína, 14 aeronaves, 15 vehículos y 16.000 dólares en efectivo así como cinco armas de fuego, informó el fiscal antidrogas Javier Caravallo.

“La investigación lleva meses de vigilancia, fue ayer (lunes) que se procedió a realizar las diligencias de allanamiento.

Estamos ubicando otros bienes, de momento tenemos asegurada la escuela de aviación, la investigación está comenzando”, dijo el fiscal.

El fiscal dijo que “sería especulación decir que aprovechaban de estudiantes” de aviación para efectuar el trasiego de droga, pero sí indicó que la academia tenía años de operar bajo el nombre de Instituto Superior de Aviación y que la misma significó una fuerte inversión económica para establecerla.

Nadie respondió las llamadas a la academia en busca de comentarios respecto a las revelaciones de las autoridades. La policía dijo en un comunicado que la organización derrumbada “se dedicaba a traficar con droga proveniente de Buenaventura, Colombia, utilizando Panamá como puente, para luego hacerla llegar a los mercados internacionales, principalmente Norteamérica”.

Agregó que las “investigaciones revelan que el material ilícito salió de los frentes 57 y 30 de las

FARC y algunas veces de las bandas criminales, reductos de paramilitares que operan en el sector de Buenaventura”.

Según los informes la red desarticulada se encargaba de trasladar la droga desde la región panameña del Darién, fronteriza con Colombia, hasta el centro de Panamá, en donde era entregada a centroamericanos, quienes la hacían pasar por diferentes medios —aéreos, marítimos y terrestres— para entregarla a carteles de la droga que operan en la región. No se informó de momento cuanto droga había traficado la red.

La policía encontró dentro de un camión con doble fondo estacionado en una propiedad de uno de los dueños de la escuela de aviación 100 kilos de cocaína que fueron confiscado en el operativo. □

Alistan aprobación de ley de víctimas de conflicto colombiano

COLOMBIA (AP)- Una comisión legislativa le dio el visto bueno a una ambiciosa “ley de víctimas” con la cual se aspira a indemnizar o reparar a cuatro millones de personas afectadas por el conflicto armado interno de Colombia y con una vigencia de 10 años.

La ley contempla devolver tierras robadas o despojadas y la reparación económica para víctimas de grupos armados ilegales y del Estado a partir del 1 de enero de 1985.

El proyecto de ley fue aprobado por la Comisión Primera del Senado, encargada de temas constitucionales y de paz, constituida por 18 congresistas.

Se calcula que la aprobación del proyecto en el plenario de 102 senadores, a principios de mayo, se producirá sin tropiezos, debido a que en la Comisión hay representación de todos los partidos políticos.

De acuerdo con el gobierno, la ley le costaría al menos 40 billones de pesos (unos 20.000 millones de dólares), con tope máximo de 10.000 dólares por víctima, y quienes reciban la reparación se comprometen a no demandar al Estado.

También quedó estipulado que la restitución de tierras empezará a realizarse desde 1991. □

Supuesto narco italiano detenido en Bolivia

BOLIVIA (AP) - Un supuesto narco italiano buscado en su país, otros dos hombres de la misma nacionalidad, y un colombiano vinculados a él, fueron detenidos en la región oriental de Santa Cruz, informó el martes la fiscalía.

Estefano Ferrari, de 44 años, buscado en Italia fue detenido el domingo al llegar en un vuelo procedente de Madrid, informó por teléfono a la AP, el fiscal encargado del caso Alvaro La Torre.

Indicó que Ferrari tiene mucho tiempo en Bolivia, y que portaba un pasaporte falso con nacionalidad argentina. La fiscalía boliviana espera que se formalice un pedido de extradición por parte de Italia. □

Santos invita a empresarios españoles a invertir en Colombia



ESPAÑA - El presidente colombiano, Juan Manuel Santos, finalizó ayer su primera visita oficial a España con una invitación a los empresarios a invertir en Colombia, que pretende convertirse en un “país aburrido, predecible y con unas reglas de juego claras y estables” para los negocios. España, segundo país inversor en Colombia después de EEUU, destinó en 2010 al país sudamericano 420

millones de euros en exportaciones, mientras las exportaciones de Colombia a España ascendieron a 475 millones de euros.

En esta foto el presidente colombiano, Juan Manuel Santos, a la derecha, conversa con el líder opositor del partido Conservador de España, Mariano Rajoy, durante una reunión en Madrid, ayer 12 de abril, 2011. (AP Photo/ Arturo Rodriguez) □

Delincuentes balean a gobernador boliviano

BOLIVIA (AP) - Delincuentes balearon el martes al gobernador de la provincia oriental de Santa Cruz Rubén Costas, quien se encontraba fuera de peligro, informó un funcionario en esa ciudad.

Costas fue herido con un disparo que le rozó la frente cuando intentó evitar el asalto a una mujer en las puertas de un banco cercano a su oficina, informó el secretario general de la gobernación, Rolando Aguilera.

Costas perseguía en su vehículo a los delincuentes que huían en motocicleta cuando le dispararon, explicó Aguilera. El gobernador fue ingresado a una clínica y su vida no corre peligro, informaron fuentes médicas.

El presidente Evo Morales instruyó al ministro de Gobierno una investigación rápida para detener a los delincuentes. “Toda mi solidaridad, rechazamos esta agresión y no lo vamos a permitir”, dijo en rueda de prensa.

Según el parte médico, Costas tenía un pequeño hundimiento de cráneo y una herida de 7 centímetros en el cuero cabelludo pero estaba consciente.

El ministro de Gobierno, Sacha Llorenti, dijo que los delincuentes se dieron a la fuga pero que había un intenso rastillaje para detenerlos. Santa Cruz es una de las ciudades más prosperas del país pero también una de las que presenta una mayor tasa de delincuencia. □

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